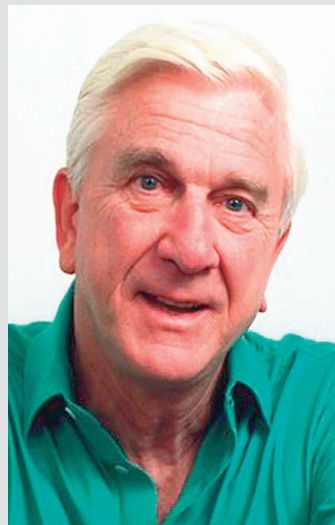


## Leslie Nielsen dies at 84



**FILE** - This file photo taken in November 1991, shows actor Leslie Nielsen. The Canadian-born Nielsen, who went from drama to inspired bumbling as a hapless doctor in 'Airplane!' and the accident-prone detective Frank Drebin in 'The Naked Gun' comedies, has died. He was 84.

(AP Photo/Doug Pizac, file)

By ANDREW DALTON  
BOB THOMAS,  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES – Despite decades spent playing sober commanders and serious captains, Leslie Nielsen insisted that he was always made for comedy. He proved it in his career's second act.

"Surely you can't be serious," an airline passenger says to Nielsen in "Airplane!" the 1980 hit that turned the actor from dramatic leading man to comic star.

"I am serious," Nielsen replies. "And don't call me Shirley."

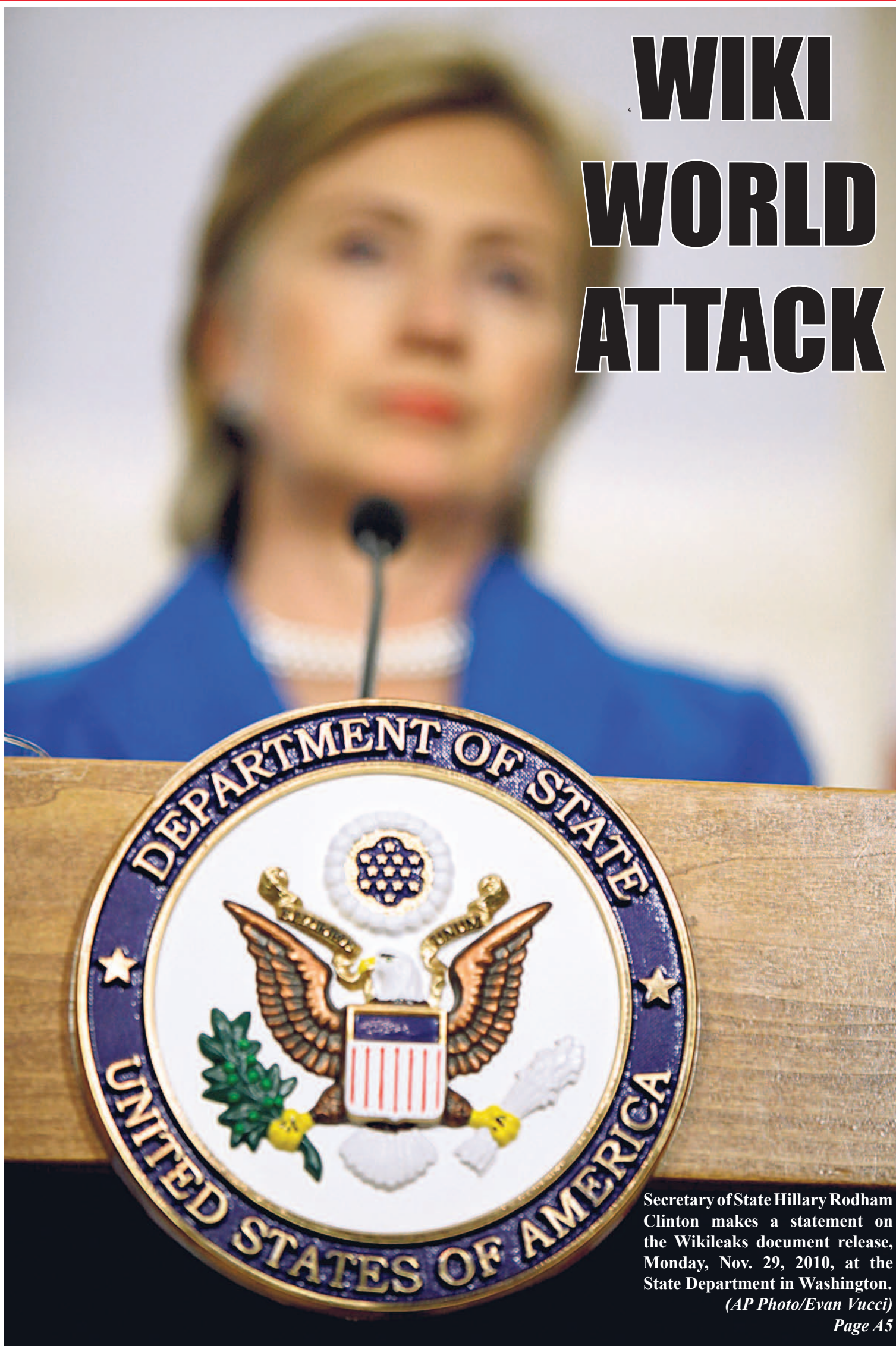
The line was probably his most famous — and a perfect distillation of his career.

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## WIKI WORLD ATTACK



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a statement on the Wikileaks document release, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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# Media exec Black gets waiver to lead NYC schools



**FILE** - In this Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010 file photo, Hearst Magazines chairwoman Cathie Black speaks to the media at City Hall in New York, where Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that she is his choice for the city's next Chancellor of Public Schools. State education commissioner David Steiner agreed Monday, Nov. 29, 2010 to allow Black to lead the nation's largest school system, even though she has no background in education.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)

By KAREN MATTHEWS,  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The state education commissioner agreed Monday to let publishing executive Cathie Black serve as New York City schools chancellor, putting the Hearst Magazines

chairwoman in charge of the nation's largest school system. The announcement came after Mayor Michael Bloomberg agreed to appoint a seasoned educator as second-in-command to Black, who needed a waiver from the state because she has no

background in education.

Bloomberg announced Nov. 9 that he had chosen Black, the former publisher of USA Today, to succeed Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, who is leaving at the end of the year to take a job with News Corp. Bloomberg called the 66-year-old Black a "world-class manager" who would inspire the school system's 1.1 million students and 135,000 employees.

But with no credentials as an educator, Black needed the waiver from Commissioner David Steiner.

An advisory panel appointed by the commissioner to weigh Black's qualifications recommended last week that Steiner deny the waiver. But Steiner said he might be willing to grant it if a deputy chancellor with education credentials were chosen.

After days of negotiations, Bloomberg agreed to create the position of chief academic officer under

Black. The job will go to Shael Polakow-Suransky, a former teacher and principal who is currently deputy chancellor for performance and accountability.

Bloomberg said Polakow-Suransky, 38, would oversee instructional programs and the implementation of major educational policies.

In his decision announced late Monday, Steiner said Black "has affirmatively stated that the position will continue throughout her tenure ensuring strong and continuous pedagogic support."

He also praised Black's "exceptional record of successfully leading complex organizations and achievement of excellence in her endeavors."

Bloomberg applauded Steiner's decision.

"It is now time to put politics aside and recognize that it is in the best interest of our children for Cathie Black to succeed as chancellor," the mayor said in

a statement. "The crucial work that lies ahead requires all of us to come together around our shared commitment to our children."

Teachers union head Michael Mulgrew said in a statement Monday that he hopes to "move forward on the many challenges the system faces."

The arrangement has not satisfied Black's critics. State Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries of Brooklyn said Monday he was considering legal action to block the waiver.

"This is about the rule of law," Jeffries said.

He said state law permits waiving the requirement for educational credentials when the applicant has extraordinary qualifications that are equivalent. For example, Klein, a lawyer who also needed a waiver, had been the U.S. Justice Department's top antitrust official and had taught school briefly as a young man. □



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# Portlanders condemn bomb plot, criticize FBI probe

By NIGEL DUARA,

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Some residents of this famously liberal city are unnerved, not only by a plot to bomb an annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony last week but also by the police tactics in the case.

They questioned whether federal agents crossed the line by training 19-year-old Somali-American Mohamed O. Mohamud to blow up a bomb, giving him \$3,000 cash to rent an apartment and providing him with a fake bomb.

The FBI affidavit “was a picture painted to make the suspect sound like a dangerous terrorist,” said Portland photographer Rich Burroughs. “I don’t think it’s clear at all that this person would have ever had access to even a fake bomb if not for the FBI.”

Mohamud’s defense lawyer said in court on Monday that agents groomed his client and timed his arrest for publicity’s sake.

Public defender Stephen Sady focused on the FBI’s failed attempt to record a first conversation between Mohamud and an FBI undercover operative. “In the cases involving potential entrapment, it’s the initial meeting that matters,” Sady said.

Attorney General Eric Holder defended the agents on Monday, rejecting entrapment accusations.

Once the undercover operation began, Mohamud, who officials said had no formal ties to foreign terror groups, “chose at every step to continue” with the bombing plot, Holder said.

To be sure, many Portlanders were unsettled that a terror plot could unfold in their backyard — in Pioneer Courthouse Square, as thousands cheered the tree lighting — and not in much higher-profile cities such as New York or Los Angeles.

At a time when people are focused on body scans and intrusive pat-downs to prevent terrorist attacks, some Portlanders wondered



Commuters walk near Pioneer Courthouse Square, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, in Portland, Ore. Terror suspect Mohamed Osman Mohamud and an FBI operative parked a van full of dummy explosives across from Pioneer Courthouse Square just after sundown Friday while thousands gathered in the square for the annual tree lighting. Mohamud is accused of attempting to detonate the explosives.

(AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

if the FBI had gone too far and unnecessarily scared residents.

“What is distressing about the incident is not so much that the FBI arrested or otherwise intervened,” said resident Joe Clement, 24, “but that the FBI used him to create a scenario that scared a lot of people.”

It is not unusual in Portland for actions by federal agents to be met with skepticism and criticism.

Portland was the first city in the nation to pull its officers from the FBI’s terrorism task force in 2005.

The move came after the FBI wrongfully arrested a Portland attorney as a suspect in the 2004 Madrid train bombings — a mistake that prompted an FBI apology.

“I don’t think there will be much serious debate as to whether or not (Mohamud) should have been a person worth looking into,” said resident Christopher Frankonis, 41. “Portland being Portland, and Portland being liberal, it will understand and accept” it.

But Portland being what it is, residents will “still want answers to questions about how it all went down,” he said. The Portland plot was reminiscent of other recent arrests. A 34-year-old Pakistani-American was accused of targeting the Washington, D.C., subway system in October and authorities say a 19-year-old Jordanian man tried to bring

down a Dallas building with a truck bomb in Sept. 2009. In both cases, federal agents had set up elaborate ruses to ensnare the men.

In Mohamud’s case, the FBI set up a sting operation to investigate him after receiving a tip.

Two undercover federal agents led Mohamud to believe he could detonate a bomb with a cell phone, helped him choose an apartment in Portland and instructed him to buy the equipment necessary to trigger the fake device.

Authorities say he parked a van full of explosives near the square on Friday night and was arrested shortly after he dialed a cell phone that he thought would blow up the bomb. He was charged with attempting to detonate a weapon of mass destruction.

Kim Bissett, a former student of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said she moved to Portland because it is a liberal city. She said most of the anger was from the suburbs, not from city residents.

“The angriest people are those from the suburbs, not necessarily Portland, which is very accepting,” Bissett said. A fire on Sunday destroyed part of the Salman Al-Farisi Islamic Center in Corvallis, a college town about 75 miles southwest of Portland. Mohamud occasionally worshipped at the center while attending Oregon State. No one was injured.

Police believe the fire was intentionally set and increased patrols around mosques and other Islamic sites in Portland. At a news conference in Washington, Holder also said the FBI was investigating the fire. If the blaze is related to the arrest or to an attack on Islam, it “is something that I personally decry,” Holder said.

“It is not something that is consistent with who we are as Americans,” he said.

While leaders in the Somali community in the U.S. condemned the plot, some, including a friend of Mohamud, were concerned about federal agents possibly luring him into breaking the law.

Mujahid El-Naser, 20, said he didn’t believe Mohamud would have gotten involved in the plot without FBI encouragement. El-Naser, who has played basketball with Mohamud, said he never heard him express extremist views.

“If you talk with someone enough, they’ll be convinced they need to do something,” said El-Naser, who gathered outside the federal court building with a couple of dozen people before a court hearing where Mohamud pleaded not guilty.

Mohamud’s lawyer asked a judge to order the government to preserve whatever devices, storage media or locations might have been used for a July 30 meeting at a downtown

Portland hotel.

At the meeting, an FBI affidavit said, Mohamud talked of “putting stuff in a car, parking it by a target, and detonating it.” While the undercover agent was equipped with audio recording equipment, it didn’t work, for reasons the affidavit left unexplained.

Sady said preserving the evidence would allow defense experts to examine it, and Judge John Acosta granted the request.

A defense of entrapment must prove that the government planted the idea of a criminal act in an innocent person’s mind and brought about the crime so the government could prosecute it.

Key to the defense is showing the defendant wasn’t predisposed to act criminally before the government got involved.

In this case, the FBI affidavit said it was Mohamud who picked the target of the bomb plot, that he was warned several times about the seriousness of his plan, that women and children could die, and that he could back out.

Mohamud “was told that children — children — were potentially going to be harmed,” Holder added.

Authorities said they allowed the plot to continue so they could gather enough evidence to charge him with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

Portland Mayor Sam Adams said he will review the city’s decision to remove itself from the Justice Department’s Joint Terrorism Task Force, a cooperative among state, local and federal law enforcement.

“We have a new federal administration,” he said. “There have been changes to federal practices and federal laws.”

Mohamud was investigated for rape in 2009 but never charged. The Benton County District Attorney’s Office didn’t find a reason to charge Mohamud with a crime after a woman whose name was redacted in the documents filed a sexual assault complaint. □





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# Obama calls for 2-year freeze on federal pay



President Barack Obama delivers a statement to members of the media in the in the Old Executive Office Building, on the White House campus in Washington, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010.«

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

By **TOM RAUM,**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday proposed a two-year freeze of the salaries of some 2 million federal workers, trying to seize the deficit-cutting initiative from Republicans with a sudden, dramatic stroke. Though signaling White House concern over record deficits, the freeze would make only a tiny dent in annual deficits or the nation's \$14 trillion debt.

"Small businesses and families are tightening their belts," Obama said in brief remarks at the White House. "The government should, too." The administration said the plan was designed to save more than \$5 billion over the first two years.

The proposal, which must be approved by Congress, would not apply to the military, but it would affect all others on the Executive Branch payroll. It would not affect members of Congress or their staffs, defense contractors, postal workers or federal court judges and workers.

Obama's move was an attempt to get in front of Republican plans to slash federal pay and the workforce next year, when they will flex more legislative muscle than now. It

came a day ahead of Obama's meeting at the White House with both Republicans and Democratic leaders — his first with Republicans since the midterm elections — and two days before the deadline for recommendations by his deficit-reduction commission. The president said the economy and federal spending were at the top of the agenda for Tuesday's meeting, one he said he hoped "will mark a first step towards a new and productive working relationship" between the two parties. Because of GOP midterm gains, "we now have a shared responsibility to deliver for the American people on the issues that define not only these times but our future," Obama said.

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio, on track to become House speaker in January, said he was pleased with the president's announcement.

"Republicans and Democrats don't have to wait until January to cut spending and stop all the tax hikes. We can — and should — start right now," Boehner said in a statement. He also suggested that Obama was taking a page from the GOP playbook.

The freeze would take effect on Jan. 1, assuming the lame-

duck Congress approves the move by the end of this year. The 2012 pay freeze will be included by Obama as part of his fiscal 2012 budget submission to Congress, due early next year.

In the past, Congress has generally gone along with presidential recommendations on federal worker pay levels. Without congressional action, federal employees would automatically get a 0.9 percent increase under the formula set by a 1990 law. They received a 1.9 percent pay increase this year.

Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., in line to be the next chairman of the House committee that oversees federal personnel issues, called Obama's federal salary freeze "long overdue." But labor union leaders balked at it. John Gage, president of the 600,000-member American Federation of Government Employees, called the decision "a slap at working people. ... To symbolically hit

at federal employees I think is just wrong." He said the move would not really save as much as the White House claims because federal employees often get just a fraction of projected raises.

Colleen Kelley, head of the 150,000-member National Treasury Employees Union, said union officials would try to derail the proposal in Congress. She may find some sympathy with union-friendly Democrats still in control for another month.

"We're going to do everything we can to make this not happen and to explore all our options," Kelley said.

The president's move bows to growing budget concerns and pressure from Republicans, and many rank-and-file Democrats, to rein in federal pay and benefits.

The federal government is the nation's largest employer, with about 2 million workers. About 85 percent of them work outside of the Washington,

D.C., area.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., now the House majority leader, said he would closely study Obama's request.

"Meaningful deficit deduction cannot be achieved through a piecemeal approach to trimming federal spending," Hoyer said. Active members of the military "serving in harm's way" should be exempt, he said, but he questioned the wisdom of leaving out military members in noncombat roles while subjecting their civilian counterparts to the freeze.

"I did not reach this decision easily, this is not a line item on a federal ledger, these are people's lives," Obama said. But, he added, "getting this deficit under control is going to require some broad sacrifice, and that sacrifice must be shared by the employees of the federal government." He said he was just asking civil servants "to do what they've always done — play their part." □



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# US says leaks are a crime, threatens prosecution

WASHINGTON — Top US diplomat Hillary Clinton on Monday accused WikiLeaks of an “attack” on the world, as key American allies were left red-faced by embarrassing revelations in a vast trove of leaked memos.

In a lengthy statement, the US secretary of state was apologetic to US allies as she told reporters she “deeply regrets” the release of the more than 250,000 diplomatic cables, all apparently from the State Department.

“This disclosure is not just an attack on America’s foreign policy interests. It is an attack on the international community,” Clinton said, following talks in Washington with Turkey’s foreign minister.

“I want you to know that we are taking aggressive steps to hold responsible those who stole this information,” as well as taking steps to prevent future disclosures, she added.

The flood of leaked US diplomatic cables revealed secret details and indiscreet asides on some of the world’s most tense international crises.

Officials were quick to criticize the release of the documents — most of which date from between 2007 and February 2010 -- and to stress the leaks would not harm relations.

The cables were given to journalists from five Western

publications several weeks ago and are being released on the Internet in stages.

Highlights already include a call by Saudi King Abdullah for the US to “cut off the head” of the Iranian snake over its nuclear program and leaked memos about a Chinese government bid to hack into Google.

WikiLeaks creator Julian Assange described the mass of documentation as a “diplomatic history of the United States” covering “every major issue.”

Despite a cyberattack claimed by a private computer hacker that took down its main website Sunday, WikiLeaks started publishing 251,287 cables -- 15,652 of which are classified “secret” -- on <http://cablegate.wikileaks.org>. US officials had raced to contain the diplomatic fallout by warning more than a dozen governments of the impending leaks, but Washington refused to negotiate with WikiLeaks, saying it had obtained the cables illegally.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose policies are the subject of many of the memos, dismissed them as “worthless” and “mischief” which would not affect Tehran’s relations with its Arab neighbors.

Afghanistan insisted its relations with the US would not be affected by cables portraying President Hamid Karzai as a paranoid

conspiracy theorist and his brother as a corrupt drugs baron.

“We don’t see anything substantive in the document that will strain the relationship,” Karzai’s spokesman Waheed Omer told reporters, adding: “We’ll wait and see what else comes out before making further comment.”

Russia likewise tried to play down US diplomats’ reported assessment of the country as “a virtual mafia state” that is ruled by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and not President Dmitry Medvedev. “There is nothing new or deserving a comment,” Kremlin spokeswoman Yulia Timakov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies.

An unidentified Kremlin official also downplayed the leaks, telling a local paper that “our own diplomats are sometimes just as open in their own private messages to each other.”

Britain, which has repeatedly condemned the leaks, said it would continue to work closely with Washington despite the upcoming release of unflattering US memos about Prime Minister David Cameron.

Israel emerged as a surprising beneficiary, with senior officials saying that the leaks vindicated the Jewish state’s position as they exposed widespread Arab concern over Iran’s nuclear program.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton makes a statement on the Wikileaks document release, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

“I don’t think Israel was harmed at all,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

US Attorney General Eric Holder said there was an “ongoing criminal investigation” of the leaks and promised to pursue Assange, an Australian believed to be living in Europe, if he was found to have violated US law.

The US government has also ordered a sweeping review of information security across federal agencies.

The Guardian said all five papers had decided “neither to ‘dump’ the entire dataset into the public domain,

nor to publish names that would endanger innocent individuals.”

US officials have not confirmed the source of the leaks, but suspicion has fallen on Bradley Manning, a former army intelligence analyst arrested after the release of a video showing air strikes that killed reporters in Iraq. WikiLeaks argues that its first two document dumps -- nearly 500,000 US military reports from 2004 to 2009 -- shed light on abuses in Afghanistan and Iraq, and denies any individual has been harmed by its disclosures. □

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# Tennessee Supreme Court halts next 4 executions

By LUCAS L. JOHNSON II,

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Supreme Court on Monday halted the executions of four death row inmates to allow a lower court to examine the constitutionality of the state's new lethal injection procedure.

Convicted killer Stephen Michael West was set to die by lethal injection at 10 p.m. CST Tuesday for the 1986 stabbing deaths of Wanda Romines and her 15-year-old daughter Sheila Romines.

Earlier this month, the state's high court granted West a temporary stay so a lower court could hear evidence in his lawsuit claiming the first drug in Tennessee's three-drug lethal injection protocol does not adequately anesthetize prisoners, violating the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Davidson County Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman ruled last week that Tennessee's process "allows for death by suffocation while conscious." Bonnyman said in her ruling that the 5 grams of

sodium thiopental, the first drug meant to render the inmate unconscious, was insufficient. She said the state should adopt some method to determine whether the inmate was awake before being injected with the second drug, a paralyzing agent.

In response, the state added a procedure in which a prison warden will brush a hand over an inmate's eyelashes and gently shake the inmate to check for consciousness.

If the warden determines the inmate is unconscious after the first injection, he directs the executioner to administer the next two drugs. If the warden determines the inmate is still conscious, a second IV line will give a second dose of 5 grams of sodium thiopental.

The Tennessee Supreme Court approved the plans, but West's attorneys urged them on Friday to halt the execution because they say the state hasn't proven that the new procedure is constitutional.

"Defendants waited until the eve of the Thanksgiving holidays to spring a new protocol on

the court and Mr. West with nothing to demonstrate its constitutionality," the attorneys said.

On Monday, the Tennessee Supreme Court reconsidered its action and granted West's request to test the constitutionality of the procedure in lower court.

Until the issue is resolved, the high court also stayed the executions of death row inmates Billy Ray Irick — who was to be executed next month — and Edmund Zagorski and Edward Jerome Harbison.

Parties in the West case are expected to submit arguments or evidence regarding the revised protocol and the trial court is expected to render a judgment within 90 days, according to the high court.

In 2001, West was hours away from death when a judge granted him a stay so he could pursue federal appeals, which he has since completed. Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen declined to intervene when West's attorneys asked for clemency, spokeswoman Lydia Lenker said. □



This undated photo released by the Farmington, N.M. police shows a swastika shaved on the head of a 22-year-old mentally disabled Navajo man after an April 29, 2010 incident. Three men are accused of branding a swastika onto the victim's arm before shaving the symbol and using markers to scrawl messages and images on his body, marking the latest troubling race-related attack in this New Mexico community.

(AP Photo/Farmington Police Department)

By TIM KORTE,

Associated Press

FARMINGTON, N.M. —

Three friends had just finished their shifts at a McDonald's when prosecutors say they carried out a gruesome attack on a customer: They allegedly shaped a coat hanger into a swastika, placed it on a heated stove and branded the symbol on the arm of the mentally disabled Navajo man.

Authorities say they then shaved a swastika on the back of the 22-year-old victim's head and used markers to scrawl messages and images on his body, including "KKK," "White Power," a pentagram

and a graphic image of a penis.

The men have become the first in the nation to be charged under a new law that makes it easier for the federal government to prosecute people for hate crimes.

The case also marked the latest troubling race-related attack in this New Mexico community, prompting a renewed focus among local leaders on improving relations between Navajos and whites.

The defendants are accused of violating the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and could face 10 years in prison if convicted. The

## Swastika case another race issue for NM town

sentences could be extended to life if the government proves kidnapping occurred. Federal prosecutors say they were able to bring the case because the 2009 law eliminated a requirement that a victim must be engaged in a federally protected activity, such as voting or attending school, for hate crime charges to be leveled.

The law also expanded civil rights protections to include violence that is based on gender, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity. The swastika branding has also put the spotlight back on Farmington, a predominantly white community of about 45,000 residents near the Navajo Nation.

Farmington leaders signed a historic agreement earlier this month with the Navajo Nation in which both sides pledged to work toward improving race relations. The signing ceremony was held at City Hall and included a blessing by a Navajo medicine man who prayed for a strong, stable and long-running agreement. City officials sat cross-legged on the floor alongside Navajos during the service.

"Mistreatment of fellow humans is a learned behavior.

The only thing that will address that directly is education," said Duane "Chili" Yazzie, chairman of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and a participant in the signing ceremony. The signing was significant because it put into writing what both sides have long expressed. Negotiations took almost a year as the parties discussed wording and language.

Navajo and city leaders agree race relations have improved dramatically since May 1974, when the beaten and burned bodies of three Navajo men were found north of town. Three white high school students were linked to the crime and sent to reform school, outraging the Navajo community. More recently there were other events.

There was the 2006 kidnapping and beating of a Navajo man by three young white men. Six days later, a Navajo man was shot to death in a Walmart parking lot by a Farmington police officer responding to a domestic violence call.

The shooting was ruled justified by sheriff's investigators and the Justice Department determined there was no basis for a civil rights investigation. Still, the

incident touched off a round of protests by angry Navajos. When a New Mexico advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights visited Farmington in 2004 to assess the city's progress 30 years after the canyon murders, several speakers at a forum complained that harassment of Indians by white youth continues.

In the current case, defendants William Hatch of Fruitland and Paul Beebe and Jesse Sanford, both of Farmington, have pleaded not guilty. Their court-appointed lawyers have declined comment. They have also been charged with state crimes.

Yazzie and Mayor Tommy Roberts said despite the history of problems, there is evidence of substantial progress in Farmington, including the recent agreement between city and tribal leaders.

The consensus after the ceremony was that people who discriminate in Farmington — both Anglo and Navajo — are in the minority.

"There are thousands of interactions every day between people of different cultures in Farmington," Roberts said. "Most of those occur without any problems." □





# The halls are decked at the Renaissance Mall



Oranjestad - The Renaissance Mall is proud to show off its contemporary Christmas decorations, with a large fully lit Christmas tree as the focal point of attention.

The mall in the heart of town enjoyed much foot-traffic in November as the Island Extravaganza unfolded, and is now gearing up to even more activity during extended opening store hours, which are 10 am to 8 pm.

The mall boasts an extensive collection of international brands with Rolex, Cartier, Chopard, Louis Vuitton, Bulgari, David Yurman and Gucci among them.

It is also home to famed apparel brands such as Ralph

Laurent, Custo Barcelona, Guess, Carolina Herera, BCBG Max Azaria & Lacoste. The mall embraces dedicated Furla and Longchamps boutiques, men's underwear by Calvin Klein, Jeans by Diesel & Hilfiger, shoes by Geox and Aldo, men's couture by Ermenegildo Zegna, and Faconable, fragrances and cosmetics by Dufry, local brands such as Eva Boutique, Entre Nous, Sunspecs, Mopa Mopa, Liquortique, Monalisa and Aruba Aloe, and the Taste of Belgium coffee and chocolate bar.

The mall is now graced with a number of new additions such as Gari & Wasabi fusion Japanese cuisine, the island's

second Starbucks coffee, and La Martina, with fashions dedicated to the sport of polo. Colombian Emeralds international which started renovations last years and opened the Tag Heuer boutique is also making progress with the complete store facelift, concluding soon.

Visitors who take a taxi to the mall will be included in a raffle for a return trip to Aruba including airfare, hotel accommodations and \$500 in Renaissance Mall gift certificates, don't forget to ask your taxi driver for a participation voucher.

Deck the halls in boughs of holly, tis the season to be jolly, at the Renaissance Mall. □





# Pilgrims at La Cabana celebrating Thanksgiving



**EAGLE BEACH** – There were no Indians present at La Cabana's Thanksgiving feast but the Pilgrims were there, dressed in true 17<sup>th</sup> century fashion, inspired by their

Dutch and British roots. The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, started in 1621 and continued through the years in the



Americas. During the American Revolution in the late 1770s, a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress, and in 1817 New York State was first to adopt Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom, with many other states to follow. The fourth Thursday each November just became an official holiday at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club this week, as talented members of the accounting



department sewed all costumes from scraps and left-overs creating an amazing wardrobe of black clothes with white lace collars and buckles on the men's hats and shoes, while the ladies paraded smocks, petticoats, coifs, stockings and aprons!

The kitchen served turkey with all the trimmings for a delicious Thanksgiving day, part of the resort's Cafeteria Theme day. □





# Okeanos Spa showcased at the Women's Expo



PALM BEACH – Okeanos Spa was among exhibitors at this weekend's Women's Expo Show, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Grand Caribbean Ballroom. Spa Manager Karin Cofino reports that her estheticians presented KeraGreen products for hair restoration, for the first time in Aruba.

The KeraGreen label presents a brand new keration and protein system delivering consistent impressive results for those with frizzy, problem hair. The products and treatments enjoyed much interest at the Women's Expo, and Karin informed that they are available at the Okeanos hair salon. In addition to an innovative hair treatment,

Okeanos also introduced the new OPI's Holiday 2010 nail enamel colors, inspired by Burlesque.

The Burlesque lineup offers six shimmers in warm metallics, a vampy plum and some more-traditional reds. While the Burlesque Glitter collection in bright dazzling colors from a recognized international brand enjoyed popularity, Sothys make up was offered on the island for the first time, with free make-overs courtesy of Sothy Institute De Beaute, in Paris at Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, for more than 60 years.

Okeanos spa occupies 3,500 square feet in the heart of the Renaissance Aruba Resort offering 7 treatment rooms,

including a nicely appointed duet massage room and a wet room. Modern salon services include 2 manicure stations, 2 pedicure stations and one beauty station.

Other spa amenities feature fully equipped locker and changing rooms, a traditional steam room and charming indoor and outdoor relaxation lounges.

The spa's world-famous Pevonia Spa care products are also available for sale in the small reception area and in compliance with the Renaissance Marina Tower philosophy, the spa is designated Adult Exclusive, 18 years and up. With Spa Manager Karin Cofino at the helm, reservations can be made, seven days a week. □

## Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," *Fodor's Travel Guide*

Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood

can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

**Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. Located across the street from the Radisson Resort and next door to Amazonia Churrascaria. Tel.: 586-5900**



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*An Intimate Wedding on Bucuti Beach Resort*

# Carla & Joe say I do as the sunsets



EAGLE BEACH - Carla Weaver and Joe Davis, exchanged their vows on Bucuti's 14 acres of pristine, powder white beach with a beautiful sun setting behind them. The intimate ceremony was officiated by Diane Keijzer and coordinated by the resorts Wedding Coordinator Nashette Wouters. The wedding was originally planned for earlier in the month but was delayed due to family medical situations. Rain or shine, Carla and Joe made it to Aruba where the most beautiful rainbow appeared over them as they exchanged vows and rings with each other.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's award winning Tara Beach Suites. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~







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## Rivera and Wijngarde win the 17th Plaza Golf Open



TIERRA DEL SOL - Eddy Rivera and Ron Wijngarde have won the 17th Plaza Golf Open with a 57.0 net score, leaving Bonnie and Warren Stanly trailing by 0.4 pts. John Douglas and Ravee Boolchand came third with 59.4, while father-and-son teams Orlando and Ray Rasmijn and Mike and Maurice de L'Isle took fourth and fifth place respectively. Last year's winners, William and Liam van Ramshorst, were not in a winning mood:

they scored 64.9 points and took the 15th place in the two-men scramble event. Nearest to the Pin at Hole # 3 was Rafael Gallardo; Ray Rasmijn followed suit at Pin # 7. Josef Croes, Bart Tijm and Wouter Werkema were Nearest to the Pin at holes 13, 15 and 17. The prize giving ceremony and preceding and following cocktail hour was once again a most lively affair. No wonder, when a wonderful buffet and lots to drink revived the




golfers at Café the Plaza after their strenuous afternoon. Photos show several teams in action on the course as well as the winners in the company of Tierra del Sol pro and organizer of the 17th Plaza Golf Open Adam Williams. Head sponsor Café the Plaza is represented by Hans Nooter, who played his tournament together with Rene Veldhuizen. Placing in the top ten of the 17th Plaza Golf Open: Eddy Rivera – Ron wijngarde (57.0 net) Warren Stanley – Bonnie Stanley (57.4) John Douglas – Ravee

Boolchand (59.4) Orlando Rasmijn – Ray Rasmijn (60.0) Mike de l'Isle – Maurice de l'Isle (60.4) Floyd Nedd – Larry Nedd (62.3) Cisco Quant – Patrick Haime

(62.7) Frans Brinkman – Matthew Brinkman (63.1) Ernand de l'Isle – Kim Tilleman (63.4) Harold Hagens – Jan Roeloffsvalk (64.1) □







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## HUMAN HINTS

# Serious Or Care-Free

True passion can be expressed only in a care-free state. When we are care-free, Our passion is undistorted by whatever we happen to be taking too seriously at the time. When we're care-free, we don't judge our selves and we lose our inhibitions. When we don't take things too seriously, we release our imagination.

The information we seek is stored in the imagination. Being serious locks us into logical linear left brain. Left brain logical linear information is based on the illusion of separation. Right brain intuition and imagination is based on the reality of Unity.

Watch out, because our emotions can trick us. We all experience what can be accurately described as temporary insanity, when our emotions haunt us and taunt us to the core of our Being. No one knows our vulnerabilities like our subconscious.

In a care-free state, we can express true passion. The more serious we are about the physical illusion, the more our passion is distorted and diminished. Our serious attention literally solidifies the physical reality. When we express care-free energy and don't take the physical so seriously, the illusion becomes less solid and more malleable.

Until Tomorrow.

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### ~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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# DR. STRANGELOVEREDUX

By Richard Reeves

NEW YORK -- And now a quote that could come from Dr. Strangelove:

"A lot of people fear artificial intelligence. I will stand my artificial intelligence against your human any day of the week and tell you that my A.I. will pay more attention to the rules of engagement and create fewer ethical lapses than a human force."

That is from John Arquilla, executive director of the Information Operations Center at the Naval Postgraduate School. "Dr. Arquilla," reports The New York Times, "argues that weapons systems controlled by software will not act out of anger and malice and, in certain cases, can already make better decisions on the battlefield than humans."

Aren't we lucky that software never makes mistakes?

Dr. Arquilla, a Stanford product and a true patriot, I'm sure, is one of the most dangerous men in the world. And there are many more like him. He is one of the best and the brightest who think they are advancing science and are in the business of reducing the pain of war by substituting robots and other electronic killers for actual human beings. Their philosophy is that machines don't get angry like soldiers do, so they make better decisions than actual men and women on the ground. Their goal is to make starting wars more easy than, say, the Constitution of the United States intended.

Of course, in Afghanistan, which the new Dr. Strangeloves are using as a laboratory, they have no more idea of how to end a war than Pee-Wee Herman. Their tools are Predators, robotic tanks the size of those riding lawnmowers, even smaller tanks to search for mines, and all sorts of humanless transport and reconnaissance vehicles.

Great stuff. They can kill people from

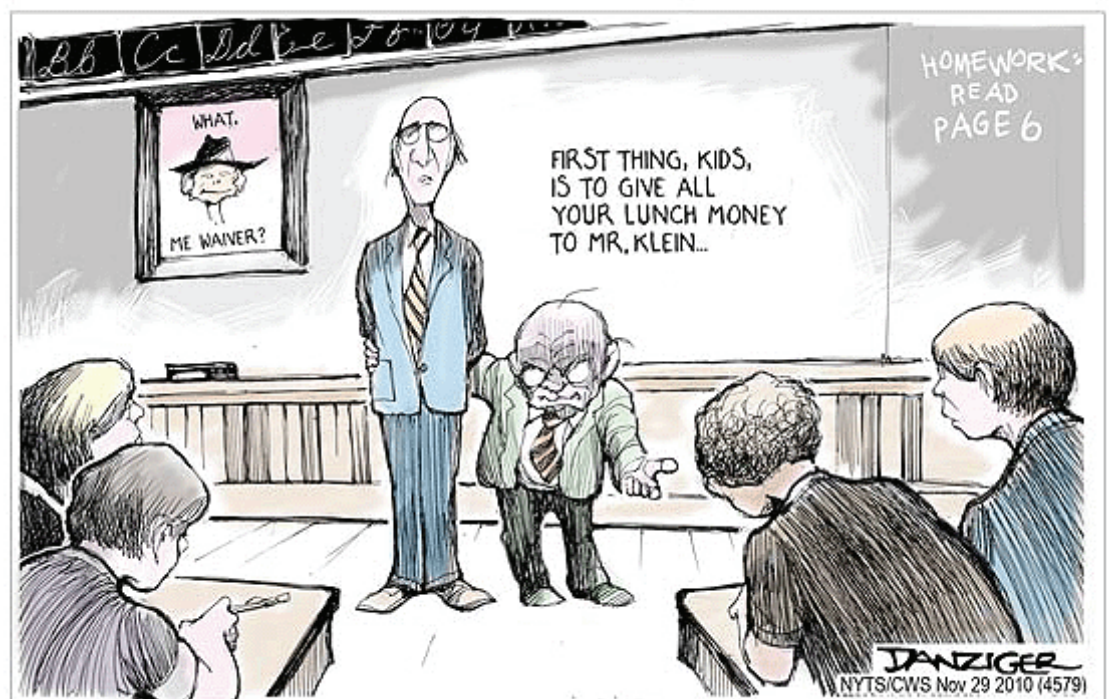
thousands of miles away. And they are in the forefront of the new American way of making war. We have evolved from a nation of laws (the Constitution) where the representatives of all men and women are required to declare war as a matter of national consensus, a thing we last did during World War II, to a nation with a volunteer army, which barely disturbs the surface life of ordinary Americans whose children have not enlisted, dealing death by faraway technology.

The new Dr. Strangeloves are trying to revolutionize and, in a way, sanitize warfare. Why should the public, the masses, be bothered with unpleasantness when we can zap the bad guys from afar? Of course, there is the fact that those unfriendlies have a knack for getting at us with fairly primitive technology like cars or vests that go boom! Again, as Dr. Arquilla told John Markoff, a technology reporter for The Times: "Some of us think that the right organizational structure for the future is one that skillfully blends humans and intelligent machines. We think that's the key to the mastery of 21st-century military affairs."

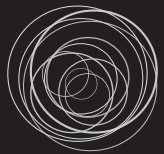
And some of us think you, Dr. Arquilla, are a nutcase, figuring out a way to fight more and more wars in the 21st century. Wouldn't that be nice, especially if it mobilized fewer and fewer humans and more and more machines? To make that point: Our Congress, robots themselves, many of them, in 2001 ordered the Defense Department to try to make one-third of United States combat vehicles robotic, that is, with no humans on board. As Dr. Arquilla said, human intelligence and judgment is second-rate from the get-go.

The idea of all this is to make war into a video game with a difference. That is the players will be virtual and the casualties will be real. Dr. Strangelove would have loved it. □

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# Afghan police officer kills 6 U.S. service members

HEIDI VOGT  
RAHIM FAIEZ  
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan border policeman killed six American servicemen during a training mission Monday, underscoring one of the risks in a U.S.-led program to educate enough recruits to turn over the lead for security to Afghan forces by 2014. The shooting in a remote area near the Pakistani border appeared to be the deadliest attack of its kind in at least two years.

Attacks on NATO troops by Afghan policemen or soldiers, although still rare, have increased as the coalition has accelerated the program. Other problems with the rapidly growing security forces include drug use, widespread illiteracy and high rates of attrition.

A spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, Zemer Bashary, confirmed that the gunman in Monday's attack was a border police officer rather than an insurgent who donned the uniform for a day. The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the gunman joined the border police to kill foreign soldiers. "Today he found this opportunity and he killed six invaders," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement e-mailed to the media.

The shooter opened fire on the NATO troops and then was killed in the shootout, NATO said, without providing additional details. Col. Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed that the six killed were American. He declined to provide their identities or say which

military branch they were from until next of kin could be notified.

Bashary said the incident happened in the Pachir Wagam district of Nangarhar province, a volatile area near Pakistan.

An investigation team has been sent to Pachir Wagam, said Gen. Aminullah Amerkhail, the regional border police commander for the east. But he said information was not coming back quickly.

"The area is very remote," he said. "Even the telephones are not working there."

NATO is still investigating an incident earlier this month in which two U.S. Marines were killed in southern Helmand province, allegedly at the hands of an Afghan soldier.

After two deadly shootings in July, NATO officers said they were re-examining training practices to make sure that such attacks did not happen again.

On July 20, an Afghan army sergeant got into an argument at a shooting range in northern Afghanistan and shot dead two American civilian trainers before being killed. Another Afghan soldier was killed in the crossfire.

A week earlier, an Afghan soldier stationed in the south killed three British troopers, including the company commander, with gunfire and a rocket-propelled grenade in the middle of the night.

In November 2009, an Afghan policeman killed five British soldiers at a checkpoint in Helmand.

On Sept. 29, 2008, an Afghan police officer opened fire at a police station in eastern

Paktia province, killing a U.S. soldier and wounding three before he was fatally shot. A NATO official expressed shock at the time that an Afghan officer would betray his NATO partners.

At the time, Col. John "Pete" Johnson, a U.S. forces commander in eastern Afghanistan, predicted it would be "the first incident of its kind."

The recent increase in such shootings suggests that the Afghan security forces may be suffering from growing pains. In the past year, the size of the Afghan police force grew 27 percent from about 95,000 officers to 120,500. The army increased 42 percent from 97,000 soldiers to about 138,200.

There have been also been problems with retention, and even those who stay often are lacking the most basic skills. Only 11 percent of enlisted personnel and 35 percent of noncommissioned officers in Afghanistan's army and police are literate, according to NATO trainers. And before NATO took over the training mission for the security forces, many Afghan police recruits were issued uniforms and guns and sent out to postings without any sort of training in weapons or law enforcement.

Drug use is also common among the police, though NATO trainers say they are doing a better job of screening for drugs and kicking out addicts. Those testing positive for heroine or other hard drugs are immediately discharged, while those testing positive for marijuana use are put on probation while they kick the habit. □



US Army Lt. Col. Johnny K. Davis, of Wisc., right, congratulates Afghan national Police officer Mohhammad Nabi attached to First Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division during an Afghan National Army training program graduation in Panjwai district, Afghanistan's Kandahar province, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010.

Associated Press

## Pro-European alliance ahead in Moldova elections

CORNELIU RUSNAC

Associated Press

CHISINAU, Moldova (AP) — Moldova's governing pro-Europe alliance was leading the opposition Communists, election results indicated Monday, but it was not clear if the coalition would win enough legislative seats to end the country's year-long political deadlock.

With more than 95 percent of the votes counted from Sunday's election, the three liberal parties of Prime Minister Vlad Filat's Alliance for European Integration led with 50 percent of the vote, against the Communists' 41 percent. Final results are expected later Monday.

The current tally would give Filat's alliance 57 seats, and the Communists 44. But 60 percent of the 101-seat legislature — a minimum of 61 votes — is needed to elect a president.

Votes were still being counted from the 600,000 Moldovans who work abroad and who tend to favor the pro-Europe alliance, which includes the Liberal, the Democratic and the Liberal Democratic parties. Those ballots could provide the alliance with the extra seats it needs to elect a president, but analysts said the result was too close to call.

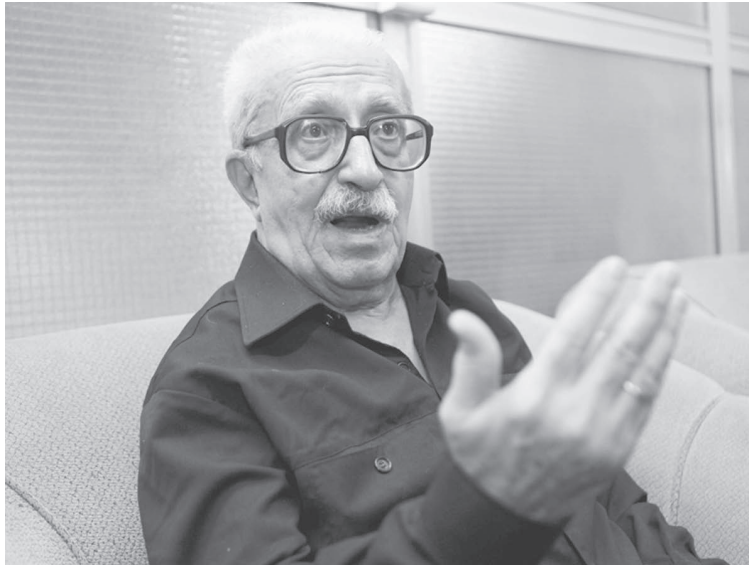
On Monday afternoon, Filat said the leaders of the Alliance parties should meet Tuesday to discuss forming the next government.

Communist leader Vladimir Voronin, who was president of Moldova from 2001 to 2009, offered to form a coalition with the Democratic Party, but its leader, Dumitru Diacov, said he prefers to stick with the alliance.

Turnout was about 60 percent of the country's 2.6 million eligible voters. □



# Iraq court gives Tariq Aziz new 10 year sentence



In this Sept. 5, 2010 file photo, Tariq Aziz, Saddam Hussein's long time foreign minister, speaks to the Associated Press in Baghdad, Iraq. An Iraqi court on Monday convicted Tariq Aziz of terrorizing Shiite Kurds during the Iran-Iraq war, sentencing him to 10 years in prison. The jail term piles a new penalty on the 74-year-old Aziz, who already faces an execution sentence from another case.

MAZIN YAHYAQASSIM  
ABDUL-ZAHRA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — An Iraqi court on Monday convicted Tariq Aziz, Saddam Hussein's longtime foreign minister, of terrorizing Shiite Kurds during the Iran-Iraq war, sentencing him to 10 years in prison. The jail term piles a new penalty on the 74-year-old

Associated Press

Aziz, the only Christian in Saddam's inner circle who already faces an execution sentence from another case.

It is the fourth set of charges against Aziz, who is asking Iraqi President Jalal Talabani for a pardon to spare him from execution. Aziz attorney Giovanni di Stefano said Monday afternoon that it is also the last legal hurdle

that the former diplomat and deputy prime minister had to face before Talabani could consider pardoning him.

Aziz, wearing a blue suit and leaning heavily on his cane, was without a lawyer in court. He has predicted he will die in prison.

"Ten years, 15 years, life: It is all academic," di Stefano, who is based in Italy and has criticized the legal proceedings as stacked against Aziz, said in an e-mail. "Not even if Clarence Darrow had represented him would the trial have been considered anything close to fair."

Darrow was a legendary U.S. civil liberties lawyer in the early 1900s.

Iraqi High Tribunal spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Sahib said Aziz was spared a death sentence for the crimes against humanity because he had a lesser involvement than some of his co-defendants in the atrocities against the small Faili sect of ethnic Kurds who follow the Shiite branch of Islam.

The verdicts were read as Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad Bolani briefed foreign diplomats about a thwarted attack on the French Embassy in Baghdad. He said security forces captured a minibus already packed with explosives in the garage of the same group that carried out a horrific siege on a Christian church last month that killed 68. He said 14

people have been arrested in the plot.

Bolani discussed the plot with The Associated Press and briefed officials from Britain, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United States. Meanwhile, four people were killed and 29 wounded by a car bomb that exploded outside a restaurant in Baqouba, about 35 miles northeast of the capital, said Maj. Ghalib al-Karkhi, the police spokesman for Diyala province.

Another bomb on Baghdad's western Abu Ghraib suburb killed a policeman and an Iraqi soldier as they were trying to diffuse it.

Of the other 15 defendants in the Iraqi High Tribunal case, three Saddam loyalists were found guilty and sentenced to death. Two, including Aziz, were sentenced to 10 years in prison. The remaining 10 were acquitted, including Saddam's two half brothers, Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan and Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan.

"Thanks to God," Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hassan murmured when he heard the verdict.

The Faili Kurd minority comes mainly from an area in northeastern Iraq that straddles the Iraq-Iran border. Saddam, a Sunni Muslim, killed, detained and deported tens of thousands of Faili Kurds early in his 1980-1988 war with Iran, denouncing them as alien Persians and spies for the Iranians.

Talabani, a Kurd himself, has said he will not sign off on Aziz's death warrant, given his old age and the fact that he is a Christian. But there are ways in Iraq's constitution to bypass the president in capital cases, and it is not clear if Talabani even has the authority to grant Aziz a pardon.

Several European nations that oppose the death penalty also have called for amnesty for Aziz.

After the verdicts were read, tribunal Chief Judge Nadhum al-Aboudi told reporters that Aziz should not be singled out for better treatment simply because he is Christian.

"The court does not look at the religion or the nationality or sect of the person," said an obviously irritated al-Aboudi. "Some ask why Tariq Aziz got the death penalty, which they consider a prosecution against Christians. The court is an independent body ... Tariq Aziz is an Iraqi man and our laws are implemented upon all Iraqis."

Di Stefano said Aziz should be released after already having served more than seven years in prison. He also said he will sue the U.S. government for reneging on what he called an agreement approved by former U.S. President George W. Bush to release Aziz after being questioned about the Saddam regime as a condition of his 2003 surrender to American forces in Iraq. □

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# Staggering Picasso trove turns up in France

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Pablo Picasso almost never stopped creating, leaving thousands of drawings, paintings and sculptures that lure crowds to museums and mansions worldwide. Now, a retired electrician says that 271 of the master's creations have been sitting for decades in his garage.

Picasso's heirs are claiming theft, the art world is savoring what appears to be an authentic find, and the workman, who installed burglar alarms for Picasso, is defending what he calls a gift from the most renowned artist of the 20th century.

Picasso's son and other heirs say they were approached by electrician Pierre Le Guennec in September to authenticate the undocumented art from Picasso's signature Cubist period.

Instead, they filed a suit for illegal possession of the works — all but alleging theft by a man not known to be among the artist's friends. Police raided the electrician's French Riviera home last month, questioned him and his wife

and confiscated the disputed artworks.

Le Guennec and his wife say Picasso's second wife gave them a trunk full of art that they kept virtually untouched until they decided to put their affairs in order for their children. The Picasso estate describes that account as ridiculous.

"When Picasso made just a little drawing on a metro ticket, he would keep it," said Jean-Jacques Neuer, a lawyer for Picasso's estate. "To think he could have given 271 works of art to somebody who isn't even known among his friends is of course absurd."

The pieces, which include lithographs, portraits, a watercolor and sketches, were created between 1900 and 1932, an intensely creative period for Picasso after he moved from Barcelona to Paris.

Among them are a richly colored hand study; a sketch of his first wife, Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova, resting an elbow in a seated pose; and a collage of a pipe and bottle.

The collage and eight others in

the stash are worth 40 million euros on their own, Picasso's estate says.

All of the art is now held by the French agency charged with battling illegal traffic in cultural items.

Le Guennec, 71, claims to have worked at three of Picasso's properties in southern France: a Cannes villa, a chateau in Vauvenarges, and a farmhouse in Mougins, the town where Picasso died in 1973. The French daily Liberation, which broke the story Monday, said Le Guennec had installed a security alarm system for Picasso at the farmhouse.

"It's a big surprise both in terms of the numbers and the quality... (of works) appearing from one day to the next," said Anne Baldassari, president of the Picasso Museum in Paris. "We are moved, surprised, intrigued — firstly moved, to have found an uninventoried stash of Picasso works."

Guennec's wife Danielle told The Associated Press by phone from their home in the town of Mougins-Sartoux, just north of Antibes, that the couple decided to come forward with the works this year because



This photo provided Monday Nov.29, 2010 by the Succession Picasso shows a drawing of a guitar by Picasso. A retired French electrician and his wife have come forward with 271 undocumented, never-before-seen works by Pablo Picasso estimated to be worth at least euro 60 million (\$79.35 million), an administrator of the artist's estate said Monday.

Associated Press

they were getting on in years, and "didn't want to leave any headaches to our children" with their own estate. Her husband had undergone a cancer treatment operation in March, she said. The couple didn't intend to sell the art, she said. "This was a gift," she said. "We aren't thieves. We didn't do anything wrong."

The work didn't appear to be much to her untrained eye, she said: "But even if this was a little jot of the pencil, it did come from the master."

Pierre Le Guennec, wearing a plaid shirt in an interview with France-2 TV outside his modest home, said he was given the trunk by Picasso's second wife and most-painted muse, Jacqueline Roque. □

## Napoleonic warriors find rest in Lithuania

LIUDAS DAPKUS,

Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — The skeletons of 18 of Napoleon's soldiers were laid to rest Monday in Lithuania — 200 years after the French emperor tried in vain to invade Russia.

Lithuanian deputy Defense Minister Vytautas Umbrasas said Napoleon's troops were finally "buried properly" at a solemn ceremony in Vilnius also attended by French Ambassador Francois Laumonier.

The remains of the soldiers were discovered last year by road builders outside the Lithuanian capital. Experts said the soldiers were members of the infantry, hussar and dragoon units that retreated from Russia in one



Lithuania's and French soldiers carry a coffin containing the skeletal remains of 18 Napoleonic soldiers during a ceremony to re-inter their remains at Antakalnis Cemetery in Vilnius, Lithuania, Monday Nov. 29, 2010, 200 years after a desperate attempt to invade Russia.

Associated Press

of history's most catastrophic military campaigns.

The new graves were added to around 2,000 others found eight years ago during excavations in Vilnius. Studies

have helped explain how soldiers in Napoleon's Grand Army perished with only a few thousand French troops surviving the war. □

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# Egyptians riot, burn cars, claiming vote fraud



A Police officer carries a ballot box to a counting center, after polls closed in Alexandria, Egypt, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010. Egypt's parliamentary election was marred by scattered violence, reports of vote buying and the ejection of many independent monitors from polling stations amid what opponents say is a government campaign to clamp down at a time of political uncertainty in this top U.S. ally.

MAGGIE MICHAEL  
PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Protesters clashed with police Monday, setting fire to cars, tires and two schools used as polling stations in riots sparked by alleged widespread fraud by the ruling party in Egypt's

parliamentary elections. The Muslim Brotherhood acknowledged it had been heavily defeated, blaming vote rigging. Riots broke out in several Egyptian cities a day after the voting, and in some places police fired tear gas to disperse protesters. Egypt's opposition

Associated Press

says the government of this top U.S. ally was using the election to secure a complete monopoly over parliament and prevent dissent ahead of more significant presidential elections next year. The upcoming vote is clouded in uncertainty, because the man who has ruled Egypt for nearly three decades, 82-year-old President Hosni Mubarak, has had health issues and underwent surgery earlier this year. A coalition of local and international rights groups Monday reported that the balloting was marred by widespread rigging after the government prevented monitoring. It said opposition candidate representatives and independent monitors who were supposed to be allowed to watch the voting were barred from almost all polling stations around the country, allowing officials to stuff ballot boxes.

Though official results are not due until Tuesday, candidate supporters around the country

took to the streets in anger after hearing word their favorites lost. In the southern province of Assiut, police fired tear gas at a procession of Muslim Brotherhood supporters armed with sticks who were carrying their candidate Mahmoud Helmi and chanting "Islam is the winner." Further south in the city of Luxor, backers of an independent candidate set fire to cars and clashed with security forces. Five people were injured and 30 arrested. Other protests erupted in Egypt's northern Delta region. Around 500 backers of the secular opposition Wafd party clashed with ruling party supporters in Gharbiya, and police fired into the air and shot tear gas to disperse them. Other protesters set fire to two schools used as polling stations in Menoufiya and burned tires outside a station south of the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria, briefly blocking the main highway to Cairo.

In a statement, the High Election Commission

dismissed reports of violence or irregularities during the voting, saying that the few incidents it uncovered "did not undermine the electoral process as a whole."

The ruling party secretary-general, Safwat el-Sherif, blamed the Brotherhood for fomenting reports of fraud.

"An outlawed group of people is trying to stifle the positive results of the elections by spreading rumors about the whole process," he said, referring to the Brotherhood—though most of the rioting was by supporters of independent candidates, and even one ruling party candidate who lost to a rival within the party. Defeating the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood appeared to be the government's main goal in the election. The group, though banned, is Egypt's strongest opposition movement and in 2005 elections stunned the government by winning a fifth of parliament's seats, its strongest showing ever. □

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## Big East gets bigger, adds TCU

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas – TCU is getting out of future debates about whether the Horned Frogs deserve to be in a BCS game. They are joining a league with automatic access. The Frogs won't have to be a BCS buster when they move to the Big East Conference, starting with the 2012 season. Win their new league and they will be guaranteed a spot in one of the big-money games. In the latest restructuring of the college football landscape, TCU's board of trustees unanimously approved an invitation Monday to join the Big East in football and all other sports. The move from the Mountain West Conference becomes official July 1, 2012.

TCU athletic director Chris Del Conte said gaining automatic-qualifying status "was a big factor" in the move and gives the Horned Frogs "the greatest opportunity to compete for the national championship."

The Big East, currently with eight football teams, has one of six automatic BCS slots.

"Access got easier, not the road," said Frogs coach Gary Patterson, whose third-ranked Frogs (12-0) wrapped up their second consecutive undefeated regular season and Mountain West title with a 66-17 win at New Mexico on Saturday.

TCU is third in the BCS standings — the highest-ranked non-automatic qualifying team — and is in line for a chance to play for the national championship if Auburn or Oregon lose next weekend. The Frogs likely will play in the Rose Bowl if Auburn and Oregon both win.

*Continued on Next Page*

## CAN'T STAND THE HEAT!

Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra reacts during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 22, 2010 in Miami. The Pacers defeated the Heat 93-77. Associated Press Page B7

## NFL weekend: fight, fouls and videotape





Texas Christian University Chancellor, Victor J. Boschini addresses the media during the press conference to announce TCU joining the Big East Conference Monday, Nov. 29, 2010 in Fort Worth, Texas.

*Associated Press*

## TCU

### Continued from Page B1

“Who would have thought five years ago that the guaranteed fallback position is, you’re going to the Rose Bowl, and one loss you’re in the national championship?” Del Conte told a room filled with supporters and staff. “We’re going to Pasadena, let’s get fired up. We’re going to the Big East, let’s get fired up. ... It’s a great time to be a Frog.” The pending departure of TCU continues a big shuffle for the Mountain West, which last summer announced that Boise State was leaving the WAC to join its league in 2011. That was expected to bolster the strength of the MWC and put the league in better position for possibly gaining an automatic BCS berth in the future. But

now so much has changed.

Utah is leaving the Mountain West for the expanded Pac-12 and BYU is going independent. Fresno State and Nevada, and maybe Hawaii, are going from the WAC to the MWC in 2012 after TCU leaves.

“Today’s intercollegiate athletics environment is very fluid,” Mountain West Conference commissioner Craig Thompson said in a statement. “Our board of directors and directors of athletics, as they have throughout the history of the MWC and with even more focus recently, will continue to analyze the landscape and chart our course in the context of ongoing changes.”

Thompson said there were “conversations already under

way with potential future members.”

Del Conte said losing BYU and Utah was a “significant blow” to the Mountain West.

“It was not the same league that we joined,” he said. “It’s not the same home that we bought, it’s not same home we were invited to, and things changed, the landscape changed.” The Big East has schools in nine of the nation’s 35 largest media markets and will be adding Dallas/Fort Worth, the fifth largest.

“Located in one of the top five media markets in the country, TCU also enables the Big East to extend its media footprint, which already encompasses more than a quarter of the country,” league commissioner John Marinatto said.

The only current Big East team ranked in the AP poll is No. 23 West Virginia (8-3, 4-2 Big East), which is 24th in the BCS standings. Connecticut (7-4, 4-2) could get the league’s automatic BCS spot. TCU might not have been headed to a BCS game without Boise State’s loss Friday night in overtime at Nevada. Had the Broncos remained undefeated, there was a real possibility that the Broncos could have passed the Frogs in the BCS standings and been the only non-AQ team to get into one of the top-level bowls.

“This is a great move,”

Patterson said. “I’ll say this, we don’t seem to get bored around this place. ... The one last mark people have held against in recruiting is that we were not an automatic qualifier. Now that’s been erased.”

TCU was a BCS buster for the first time last season, then lost to Boise State in the Fiesta Bowl. The Frogs have won 25 consecutive regular-season games, and 38 of 41 overall. The only losses in that span were in the Fiesta Bowl, and games at Oklahoma and Utah. “Coach Patterson’s done a great job there and has brought an awful lot of exposure to themselves just because of the success that they’ve had,” South Florida coach Skip Holtz said. “Probably over the last five years, (they) have been one of the leaders in this whole BCS busters thing, and they’ve done it on a consistent basis. They’ve proven that they can compete at that level, that they’re deserving of having the opportunity to be in a BCS conference.”

Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich believes TCU is “a great addition” to the Big East, and has no problem with the league expanding so far west.

“Hey, the Big 12’s got 10, the Big 10’s got 12,” Jurich said. “Why should we be any different?”

With all TCU sports moving

to the Big East, it will create a 17-team basketball league.

Marinatto said the league was aware of the logistical issues associated with having 17 basketball teams and nine football teams and that those issues would be addressed. He wouldn’t discuss the possibility of even more schools being added to the league outside of what the league previously stated.

Big East presidents unanimously agreed Nov. 2 to expand the number of football-playing schools to 10. Villanova, which won the FCS national championship last season, has been considering since earlier this fall the possibility of moving up in classification to join the league.

The Big East will be the fourth conference for TCU since the Southwest Conference broke apart after the 1995 season and the Frogs weren’t among the Texas schools that became part of the Big 12.

TCU was in the WAC from 1996-2000 before going to Conference USA for four seasons and then joining the Mountain West in 2005.

When Nebraska announced it was leaving the Big 12 for the Big 10 and Colorado declared its move to the Pac-10, the Big 12 opted against adding TCU or anybody else and plans to move forward as a 10-team league for now. □

# Petty to control race team in new ownership group

CONCORD, N.C. — Richard Petty will once again run his race team and participate in day-to-day operations as chairman of the new ownership group that was announced Monday. The assets of Richard Petty Motorsports have been sold from George Gillett Jr. to an investment group that consists of Petty, Medallion Financial Corp., and DGP Investments. “Today is a great day for me, my family, our fans and our wonderful sponsors,” Petty said in a statement that listed 10 partners that “have supported me through thick and thin and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.” RPM will field cars for AJ Allmendinger and Marcos Ambrose in 2011.

The transfer of assets has been in the works for several weeks because of Gillett’s ongoing financial problems. Debt-laden English soccer club Liverpool recently was sold despite the objection of Gillett and business partner Tom Hicks. And a U.S. hedge fund is suing Gillett

over what the firm says is more than \$117 million in debt he racked up investing in Liverpool.

Petty owned just a small take in the organization during Gillett’s two-year ownership run of RPM. The seven-time NASCAR champion seemed at times to be nothing but a figurehead, while the Gillett family ran the team.

But Petty worked the final two months of the season to regain control of the team, and the new ownership group was revealed Monday. Medallion Financial is a publicly traded investment company that has Hank Aaron among its key board members.

“We could not be happier to be able to acquire these assets together,” said Andrew Murstein, president of Medallion. “Richard is one of the greatest names, not only in NASCAR, but in all sports. His name and image are a world recognized brand with unlimited potential to grow and expand in racing. □



Richard Petty walks toward the track before the start of the Ford 400 auto race on Sunday Nov. 21, 2010, in Homestead, Fla.

*Associated Press*



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## Federer proud of bouncing back to close 2010 well

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Federer's season began with an Australian Open championship and ended with a victory over rival Rafael Nadal for the title at the ATP World Tour Finals in London. Even though he won no major tournaments in between, Federer considers 2010 to have been another great year. "Every time people write me off — or try to write me off — I'm able to bounce back," Federer said Monday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press while waiting to board a flight to leave England.

The 16-time Grand Slam champion acknowledged that Nadal was "supreme" this year, winning three major titles and returning to the No. 1 ranking.

But Federer also noted that he was pleased to overcome a midseason dip — quarterfinal exits at the French Open and Wimbledon — and finish strongly. Those losses to Robin Soderling at Roland Garros, then Tomas Berdych at the All England Club, came after Federer had reached at least the semifinals at a record 23 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments.

Then again, Federer chuckled at the notion that he only played well at very beginning and very end of 2010.

"It almost makes it feel or sound like I played horrible through the summer or I didn't play at all. That's not

the way it was. I grinded it out. I played and I played and I played, and I tried, and I had some really good matches," he said. "And then I did have some tough losses, and some guys played better than me, and the next thing you know, half the season is gone. But I really felt like I had some amazing weeks."

The setbacks at the French Open and Wimbledon also brought back the sort of whispers Federer has heard before when he went through brief periods of suddenly not winning everything in sight. He doesn't let that bother him. He's used to the way perceptions can change.

"I'm not angry. As an athlete ... you should be open to criticism, and you're allowed to be criticized, because not everybody has the same opinion, not everybody likes the same players," said Federer, who dropped to No. 3 in the rankings after Wimbledon but will end the year at No. 2.

"The rankings are quite volatile: Today you're 'great,' tomorrow you're 'not,' but then you're 'great' again. It

makes for great stories," he continued. "Now, I always look at the long term and by doing that, obviously, I can stay calm through the storm. And I think that's what I've been able to do so many times."

He went 5-0 and won 10 of the 11 sets he played at the season-ending tournament in London, capping it with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win over Nadal on Sunday.

"It's special to have the last match of the season against Rafa, because maybe you can enjoy it more instead of just running to the next tournament and playing another match," Federer said. "This one's going to carry me all the way to next season, which is kind of nice."

The two best players in the world went 1-1 against each other in 2010; Nadal leads their career series 14-8.

"When he's playing well," Nadal said, "(it's) difficult to find solutions."

After Sunday's match, Federer said he went through something of a crisis of confidence during the season. In Monday's interview, he



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates after beating Spain's Rafael Nadal to win the singles final tennis match at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010.

Associated Press

clarified that he thought that dip was a result of not playing enough matches, in part because he missed time with a lung infection.

Federer credited Swiss Davis Cup captain Severin Luthi and new coach Paul Annacone with helping to get things going in the right direction late in the year.

"Sure, I had some tough losses, and maybe I didn't win two or three Slams, like I did in other seasons," Federer said. "Rafa was supreme, and he deserves to be No. 1, but my season still was a good — or a very good — one, and I'm happy with the way I played." Now comes a chance to rest and reflect for the 29-year-old Federer. He will take about a

week's vacation, then resume practicing in earnest for next year in mid-December. Federer and Nadal will play each other in exhibition matches Dec. 21-22, raising money for their charitable foundations.

Federer will start off the 2011 Grand Slam season in January as the defending champion in Australia.

But during his time off, Federer will not pick up a racket.

"During vacation, I don't hit," Federer explained.

Then he paused and added: "Except if Mirka, my wife, wants to go for a hit, then I'll go. She's the only person who can get me out on the tennis court." □

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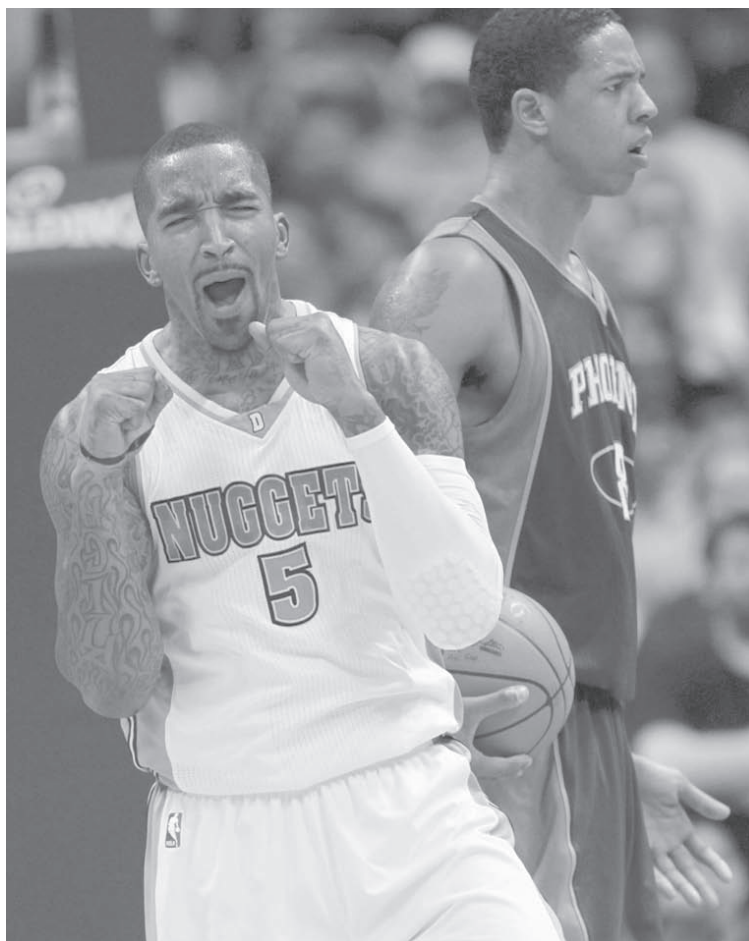
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Denver Nuggets shooting guard J.R. Smith (5) reacts to being fouled by Phoenix Suns center Channing Frye (8) which caused him to foul out of the game in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Denver, Nov. 28, 2010. Nuggets won 138-133.

*Associated Press*

DENVER (AP) — J.R. Smith scored a season-high 30 points as the Denver Nuggets overcame the absence of Carmelo Anthony to hold off the Phoenix Suns 138-133 Sunday in the highest scoring game in the NBA this season.

Chauncey Billups returned to the lineup after missing three games with a sprained right wrist and had 25 points and eight assists for the Nuggets. Anthony was feeling ill Friday against Chicago but still played and hit the winner in the final seconds.

## NBA Roundup

# Smith's 30 leads Nuggets past Phoenix, 138-133

Sunday he lasted just 2:48 before sitting down for good.

Jason Richardson did his best to keep Phoenix in it with 39 points, and Steve Nash had 17 points and 11 assists.

Nash missed a 3-pointer with 17.8 seconds left that would have tied the game.

### Pacers 95, Lakers 92

At Los Angeles, Roy Hibbert had 24 points and 12 rebounds as Indiana got its first victory over the Los Angeles Lakers at Staples Center.

Danny Granger added 18 points for the Pacers, who had lost 11 straight to the Lakers on the road since Feb. 14, 1999, shortly before Staples Center opened.

Kobe Bryant scored 23 of his 41 points in the second half for the Lakers, but he missed two tying 3-point attempts in the final seconds.

### Spurs 109, Hornets 95

At New Orleans, Manu Ginobili scored 15 of his 23 points in the second half as San Antonio overcame a 17-point deficit to hand New Orleans its first home loss of the season.

Tim Duncan scored 21 points and Richard Jefferson added 19 for the Spurs, who matched a franchise-best 7-0 start on the road, set in the 2006-07 season.

David West scored 23 points for the Hornets, who were outscored 65-34 in the second half while losing for the first time in eight home games.

### Jazz 109, Clippers 97

At Los Angeles, Deron Williams had 26 points and nine assists as Utah won its fifth straight.

C.J. Miles scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter for the Jazz, who won their 13th in 16 games after opening the season with one-sided losses to Denver and Phoenix.

Rookie Blake Griffin had 35 points on 13 for 21 shooting, grabbed 14 rebounds and dished out seven assists for the Clippers, who have lost nine of the past 10 meetings with the Jazz.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Amare Stoudemire had 37 points and 15 rebounds, and Raymond Felton added 23 points and 11 assists for New York.

Danilo Gallinari hit back-to-back 3-pointers to start the second OT, giving the Knicks a 115-109 lead, and Wilson Chandler followed with another 3 for a nine-point lead.

Tayshaun Prince led the Pistons with 31 points, including 21 in the fourth quarter and overtime, and Rodney Stuckey scored 29 points.

### Rockets 99, Thunder 98

At Houston, Kevin Martin scored 23 points and Shane Battier hit 4 of 6 attempts from 3-point range as Houston edged Oklahoma City.

Battier scored 18 points, Kyle Lowry had 14 points and Luis Scola 13 for the Rockets, who won their 11th straight at home over the Thunder.

Russell Westbrook had 23 points and 10 assists as Oklahoma City's road winning streak ended at five games.

### Hawks 96, Raptors 78

At Toronto, Josh Smith had his third career triple-double and Marvin Williams added 17 points and 12 rebounds as Atlanta downed Toronto. Smith finished with 12 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists as the Hawks won their third straight after losing seven of nine. Joe Johnson and Al Horford scored 16 points apiece.

Andrea Bargnani, limited to a season-low 11 points Friday, led Toronto with 14 points, while DeMar DeRozan scored 13.

At Newark, New Jersey, Devin Harris had 25 points, including a vital 3-pointer with 1:11 left, and eight assists to lead New Jersey.

Anthony Morrow scored 16 points and Brook Lopez added 13 for the Nets, who snapped a two-game losing streak and handed the Trail Blazers their third straight loss.

Reserve Wesley Matthews scored 25 points, Brandon Roy had 21 and LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 for the Blazers.

**In other NBA games it was Atlanta 96, Toronto 78; New York 125, Detroit 116, 2OT; San Antonio 109, New Orleans 95; Utah 109, L.A. Clippers 97; Houston 99, Oklahoma City 98; New Jersey 98, Portland 96; Denver 138, Phoenix 133; and Indiana 95, L.A. Lakers 92.** □



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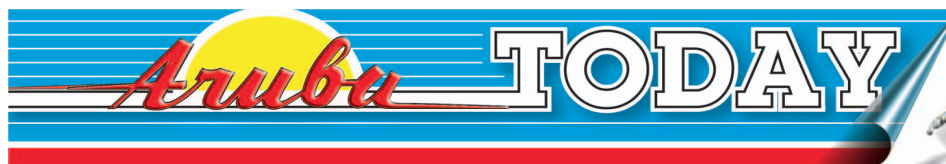
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# Haters, rejoice! Heat struggles delighting many

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — When it comes to the Miami Heat, it almost seems like there's no choice between loving 'em or hating 'em.

Most hate 'em.

Booing, sure, that's a given. Happens in every arena in the league, even sometimes their own. Hawkers of "Beat The Heat" T-shirts in Orlando were busy when Miami visited there last week. In Philadelphia, Dwyane Wade got jeered more loudly than ever, getting no love in the city where it's allegedly brotherly. And the only time LeBron James draws applause on the road is when something goes wrong.

Which, to the delight of many in the NBA, is happening far more often than anyone expected.

"I want them to lose all their games," Dallas owner Mark Cuban said.

Hey, they're coming close.

A team that expected magnificence is getting mediocrity instead — a 9-8 record entering Monday's game against Washington. The Heat began the day in sixth place in the Eastern Conference, a half-game ahead of the New York Knicks. If the Heat had that record in the West, they'd be barely hanging on to the final playoff spot.

And this week, James goes back to Cleveland for the first



Miami Heat forward Chris Bosh (1), forward LeBron James (6), and shooting guard Dwyane Wade (3) look on during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in Dallas on Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010. Dallas won 106-92.

time as a visiting player. For as harshly as the Heat have been received until now, Thursday's trip to a city scorned by its longtime hero might prove downright venomous.

"If you lose, no one's going to be happy, nor should they be," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Well, actually, plenty of people are happy about it — the rest of the NBA, for starters.

From the moment that James made his decision on July 8 to play for Miami, the Heat

knew this was coming. They knew they would carry the biggest bulls-eye in the NBA, even though the Los Angeles Lakers are the defending champions and the Boston Celtics are the reigning kings of the Eastern Conference.

Taking hits from across the league, that's one thing.

Taking hits from one another, that's the latest issue.

James bumped Spoelstra during a time-out in Dallas on Saturday night, a shoulder-to-shoulder bump that may have

been unintentional, may have been out of frustration, may have been intended to send a message.

James reached back instantly, almost as if making an apology, but no matter — by the time that quarter was over, the play was already on YouTube and the Twittersverse was buzzing that the two-time NBA MVP just hit his coach.

"A perfect case of overspeculation on this team," Spoelstra said.

Yes, but to that fire, the Heat added plenty of fuel.

After that game, the Heat held a players-only meeting for

40 minutes. And on Monday, Spoelstra was hardly getting votes of confidence from players like Wade, who said no one — not coaches, not players — should feel good about the state of things in the Heat world.

"When you go through stretches where you're not playing up to your capability, there's always something wrong," Wade said. "There's always a problem. There's always a big problem. It's not anything we're concerned with."

Wade said he didn't see the James-Spoelstra interaction during that time-out, which came during a horrific start to the second half by Miami.

"If there was a bump, it was just two guys walking at the same time, just happened to bump each other," Wade said. There's been no shortage of bumps in the road, though, for the Heat this season.

And given the star power Miami has with James, Wade and Bosh — not to mention a Hall of Famer like Pat Riley overseeing the franchise — everything the Heat say and do gets analyzed like no other team in the league experiences.

"It's just crazy," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said, looking incredulously around Orlando's press room. "You play the Heat and it's like double the crowd in here. My God, it's like they're the only team in the league."

For their part, the Heat don't necessarily enjoy that feeling either. □

## Former Yankees INF Gil McDougald dies at 82

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Sports Write

NEW YORK — Gil McDougald, an All-Star infielder who helped the New York Yankees win five World Series championships during the 1950s, has died. He was 82.

McDougald died Sunday of prostate cancer at his home in Wall Township, N.J., the Yankees said in a statement Monday night.

McDougald spent his entire 10-year major league career with the Yankees and played a key role on one of baseball's greatest dynasties.

He was the AL Rookie of the Year in 1951 and teamed with Hall of Famers such as Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and manager Casey Stengel to lead New York to eight American League pennants from 1951-60.

"Gil was a great guy, well-liked by the team and a hell of a ballplayer. He was a good fielder and was always a fierce competitor," Ford said in a Yankees statement.

A versatile infielder who played second base, third base and shortstop, McDougald batted .276 with 112 home runs and 576 RBIs during his career. He eclipsed .300 twice, in 1951 and '56, and had a career-high 83 RBIs in 1953, when the Yankees won the last of five consecutive World Series titles.

Three times, McDougald finished in the top 10 in AL MVP voting (1951, 1956, 1957). He was selected to six All-Star games, including both contests in 1959. He singled home the decisive run for the American League in the sixth inning of the 1958 game at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium.

"Before I was traded to the Yankees, Gil and I played against each other in the minors in the Texas League. He was always one of the most serious guys out there, and he loved to win. But Gil was also a person who got along well with everyone. He was always in good spirits," former Yankees pitcher Bob Turley said. □

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# AP sources: Dodgers working to finalize Juan Uribe deal

San Francisco Giants' Juan Uribe reacts to flying out as Texas Rangers' Bengie Molina and umpire Jeff Kellogg look on during the fourth inning of Game 5 of baseball's World Series Monday, Nov. 1, 2010, in Arlington, Texas.

*Associated Press*

**JANIE McCAULEY**  
AP Baseball Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Infielder Juan Uribe is closing in on a three-year deal to leave the Giants for rival Los Angeles Dodgers, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday.

A key member of the World Series champions this season, Uribe was set to travel from his native Dominican Republic to Southern California to undergo a physical on Tuesday, one of the people said. Both people spoke on condition on anonymity because nothing had been announced.

San Francisco offered Uribe salary arbitration last Tuesday, when

general manager Brian Sabean acknowledged the sides were far off in their numbers. Sabean had hoped to bring back Uribe to keep much of his roster intact heading into 2011.

The 31-year-old Uribe hit .248 with 24 homers and 85 RBIs in 2010 while playing in 148 games, including 103 at shortstop.

He homered and drove in five runs during the World Series for the Giants, who won in five games against the Texas Rangers, and had nine RBIs in all during the postseason. San Francisco won the city's first championship since moving West in 1958.

The versatile Uribe would give new manager Don Mattingly plenty of options for the Dodgers, whose owners, Frank and Jamie McCourt, are embroiled in a nasty divorce dispute largely regarding who will assume ownership of the team. Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti has said the Dodgers will have

a budget that will allow them to compete in 2011.

At 80-82, Los Angeles finished fourth in the NL West in manager Joe Torre's final season after reaching the NL championship series the previous two years. It marked the club's first losing season since 2005.

Sabeen said last week the Giants already have had discussions regarding other available shortstops to fill the void left by departed World Series MVP Edgar Renteria, who is contemplating retirement.

"So this may take some time to get sorted out," Sabean said of Uribe.

"I think both parties are willing to do something faster, we're just not talking the same language in ballpark figures. You have to be patient because we like the player ... but you do have to do business at hand and that's why we're juggling the trade scenario. I really don't know what the outside world is going to bring to him offer wise." □



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# NFL weekend overshadowed by fight, film, fouls

By BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football

NEW YORK — All the close finishes and individual heroics in Week 12 of the NFL season were overshadowed by fighting, filming and fouling.

Even on a holiday weekend featuring marquee matchups of playoff contenders and division leaders, the focus wound up on Andre Johnson and Cortland Finnegan slugging away in Houston, Spygate II involving the Denver Broncos, and Steelers linebacker James Harrison being flagged for yet another illegal hit. Sometimes it seems as if pinpoint passing by Tom Brady, dynamic defense by Brian Urlacher and powerful runs by Peyton Hillis — all stars in their teams' latest wins — aren't juicy enough to keep attention on the game. Not, at least, when there is mayhem and cheating on the menu.

The NFL has had its share of salacious scandal (Brett Favre, Ben Roethlisberger), hefty fines for helmet hits (Harrison, Brandon Meriweather) and labor unrest this year. It's also had a collection of edge-of-your-seat endings that continued with the Saints' rally past Dallas on Thanksgiving Day, the Falcons' decisive march against Green Bay, and the Steelers' nail-biting victory

at Buffalo.

Yet the airwaves get filled with the fisticuffs between Texans receiver Johnson and Titans cornerback Finnegan, or the league slamming the Broncos for taking videos of a 49ers walkthrough before their game in London. Or Harrison's roughing-the-passer shot on Buffalo quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Boxing might not draw much attention anywhere except pay-per-view TV these days. But let two of football's premier players duke it out, ripping helmets off heads amid haymakers and taunts, and suddenly it's Ali-Frazier all over again.

Indeed, Texans owner Bob McNair said he awarded the fight to Johnson "on points," and the team's website played up the fight on its Twitter account. Coach Gary Kubiak gave Johnson a game ball, ostensibly for his nine receptions for 56 yards and a touchdown in the 20-0 win over Tennessee.

Johnson wasn't bragging about any of it; he and Finnegan were fined \$25,000 each Monday for the fight.

"I would like to apologize to the organization, our owner, and my teammates," he said. "What happened out there today was not me. I just lost my cool and I wish that I could take back what

happened, but I can't. It's over and done with now."

Finnegan has a history of goading receivers, but also is good enough in coverage and as a tackler to have made the 2008 All-Pro team. He and Johnson have a history — the Texans' All-Pro wideout last season was fined \$7,500 for taking Finnegan to the ground by the face mask during a scuffle after a play in a 34-31 Texans win.

Earning just as much notice on the weekend was the London caper that led to Saturday's \$50,000 fine for the Broncos and another \$50,000 for coach Josh McDaniels.

Essentially, they were docked because an assistant spied on a San Francisco walkthrough the day before the Oct. 31 game at Wembley Stadium.

The team and McDaniels insist that Steve Scarnecchia acted alone and no one watched the tape. Scarnecchia is no stranger to this territory, having had a hand in New England's taping of opponents in the original Spygate.

"I would say this: He knew full well what was expected from him in terms of the types of behavior we would expect out of him, what Josh stood for, what Mr. Bowlen stood for, what the Denver Broncos stood for, how we conducted ourselves," said



Houston Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson (80) and Tennessee Titans cornerback Cortland Finnegan (31) are separated following a fight in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, in Houston. Both players were ejected from the game. The Texans beat the Titans 20-0.

Associated Press

Broncos chief operating officer Joe Ellis, who speaks for team owner Pat Bowlen. "It's disappointing that he chose the wrong path when he was in London. But he was fully aware of the standards here."

When standards are ignored and rules violated, particularly involving such a web of intrigue, and when teams and coaches are fined big-time, what chances do touchdown passes and sacks have?

Well, when a tackle is

made by the Steelers' star linebacker and he gets flagged — and potentially fined or even suspended — yet again, that does raise eyebrows. And it further obscures what the NFL and most of its fans would prefer to concentrate on.

So, on the Monday after a weekend of drama and shuffled standings, the talk tends to center on brawls, fines and firings, not division races and memorable games. □

## NFL reviewing argument between Bucs, game official

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — The NFL is looking into a verbal confrontation between Tampa Bay cornerback Aqib Talib and an official who worked the Buccaneers' game against the Baltimore Ravens. Bucs coach Raheem Morris defended the player on Monday, saying Talib did not do anything wrong during a heated exchange outside the team's locker room following Sunday's 17-10 loss in Baltimore. Talib was upset about a teammate being penalized for pass interference in the closing minutes of the first half.

Talib reportedly made an expletive-laced comment to an unidentified official about the call made by field judge Boris Cheek. The Tampa Tribune and St. Petersburg Times said the official responded by using an expletive of his own to describe how Talib played and that

the player then threatened to punch him.

"We are looking into it," NFL spokesman Randall Liu said.

The second-quarter pass interference call against rookie Myron Lewis, who was defending the Ravens' T.J. Houshmandzadeh, set up a TD that put Baltimore up 17-3.

Morris disagreed with the call and sought an explanation from Cheek before the second half began.

"I don't really know what happened post-game, and I really didn't talk to Aqib. I'm sure he did the same thing that everybody else did — talked about the call, disagreed with the official and moved on," Morris said. "If they they had words, that's between him and that official. I don't get into that stuff."

Talib did not talk to reporters after the game, nor was he available for comment on Monday.

The third-year pro leads the Bucs with six interceptions, despite missing the season opener after being suspended one game without pay for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. He also was fined one additional game check stemming from Talib punching a cab driver in August 2009.

Morris disputed published reports that Talib had to be restrained from going after the official on Sunday.

"He didn't do anything wrong. He was just in conversations, so I'm not going to sit here and act like Aqib did anything wrong," the coach said.

"I think you can misinterpret how he talks. His swearing is not necessarily the swearing that you guys would come across," Morris added. "I don't even know if he swore. I do know he wanted an explanation of the call." □



# Two-time champ Germany to play Canada in World Cup opener

NESHA STARCEVIC

AP Sports Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Two-time defending champion Germany will kick off the women's World Cup next year against Canada at Berlin's Olympic stadium. Monday's draw also put the top-ranked United States in a strong Group C with North Korea, Colombia and Sweden. "It's a tough group but if you want to win the World Cup you have to win every single game," said Pia Sundhage, the Swedish-born coach of the U.S. team.

Germany also has France and African champion Nigeria, which it recently beat 8-0 in a friendly, in Group A.

"They will be a different team next year," Germany coach Silvia Neid.

Japan will play against New Zealand, Mexico and England in Group B. In Group D, Brazil will face Australia, newcomer Equatorial Guinea and Norway, the only nation to win the women's title apart from Germany and the United States.

The opening game is June 26. The final is in Frankfurt on July 17. The tournament follows the highly successful men's World Cup in 2006 and

will be played in nine German cities.

The draw was affected by snowy weather that prevented Germany great Franz Beckenbauer and former goalkeeper Oliver Kahn attending the ceremony. Instead, former Germany midfielder Guenter Netzer joined model Adriana Karembeu in conducting the draw. FIFA president Sepp Blatter excused himself, citing a busy schedule.

The Americans were the last team to qualify for the 16-nation tournament, beating Italy in a playoff on Saturday after being stunned by Mexico in the semifinals of regional qualifying. Still, the U.S. is a top seed, along with Germany, Japan and Brazil.

The U.S. opens June 28 in Dresden against North Korea, the fourth straight time these nations will meet in the group stage. The Americans beat the North Koreans 3-0 in 1999 and 2003, but drew 2-2 in 2007.

"At the time, we had a very experienced team, now we have a very young, inexperienced team and I am a little bit worried," North Korea coach Kim Kwang-min said through an interpreter.



Steffi Jones, President of the Organizing committee, holds the lot of Colombia during the draw for the 2011 Women's soccer World Cup in Frankfurt, Germany, Monday, Nov. 29, 2010. The final tournament will be played in nine German cities from June 26 to July 17.

Associated Press

"Maybe we can win with our spirit.

"After the last World Cup, we went through a change of generations and it was successful."

The North Koreans finished runner-up at the recently concluded Asian Games.

"The new team is very young and inexperienced, but very ambitious. We don't have high aims, but to do as well as we can," Kim said.

The Americans won the World

Cup twice in 1991 and 1999, and they have finished no worse than third.

"It's no easy draw for any team because all teams that qualified are very good and women's game is developing so far," Sundhage said.

"We took a bumpy road to qualify but beating Italy has strengthened us, we came out stronger from the playoff," she said.

"But you can't take anything for granted. Any team could

beat any team, if you have a good day or not. Many more countries can win the World Cup today than before," Sundhage said.

The Americans cannot play Germany until at least the semifinals.

The Germans beat the U.S. 3-0 in the 2003 semis but the Americans are 5-0-2 against the world's No. 2 team since then, including a 3-2 victory in the Algarve Cup final this year. □



## Landis says clenbuterol use widespread in cycling

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The use of the banned muscle-building and weight-loss stimulant that Tour de France champion Alberto Contador tested positive for is widespread in cycling, according to disgraced American cyclist Floyd Landis.

Landis, who was stripped of his 2006 Tour title because of doping, told German television on Monday that he knows riders take clenbuterol. "I think that the risk of taking

Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador of Saxo-Bank Cyclist Team begins a training session in Playitas on the Canary Island of Fuerteventura, Spain, on Monday Nov. 29, 2010.

Associated Press

clenbuterol is higher now than it was earlier, when there weren't any training controls," Landis said. "There is still the risk of being caught even if it is rather small now, since the product has usually degraded when the control takes place. "You don't know what risks people will take to win a race." Contador, who won his third Tour title earlier this year, says his positive test for clenbuterol was the result of eating contaminated meat. He is facing a two-year ban and being stripped of his victory at an upcoming hearing before the Spanish cycling federation. Landis has previously alleged that Lance Armstrong and members of their former U.S. Postal team systematically

doped. A grand jury in Los Angeles has been hearing evidence from an investigation for months in closed sessions. Landis said Monday that cycling's governing body "protects some people and not others." "That is the way they manipulate results and create stars," said Landis, who acknowledged his own doping history when he rode for U.S. Postal and Phonak. "It is easy to take anabolics, whether it is testosterone, growth hormone or something like that; and EPO and to make blood transfusions. You can easily do all of that without getting caught, and we routinely did it." Armstrong, a seven-time Tour winner, has always denied doping. □



# Supreme Court rejects Tiffany trademark appeal vs eBay

By James Vicini

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said on Monday that it rejected an appeal by Tiffany & Co (TIF.N) arguing that eBay Inc (EBAY.O) should be held liable for trademark infringement for selling counterfeit goods on its website.

The case has been widely viewed as a major legal challenge in the United States to Internet companies such as eBay, Google Inc (GOOG.O) and others that host services that other people provide. They have argued they should not be held responsible for users' trademark violations.

In appealing to the Supreme Court, Tiffany said the case presented an extremely important question about allocating trademark rights and burdens in the modern Internet economy.

Tiffany said a defendant can be held liable for operating a marketplace that it knows is used to sell substantial quantities of goods that infringe a trademark, even if it does not know which



Visitors walk by a Tiffany & Co. Store at Santa Monica Place in Santa Monica, California November 26, 2010

particular goods are being infringed.

Tiffany and other luxury brands have long argued that counterfeit merchandise bearing their names is sold on eBay. The Web commerce company, which does not itself put the items up for sale, has said it has spent millions of dollars to track down

counterfeiters and remove such listings.

Tiffany sued eBay in 2004. A federal judge in New York and then a U.S. appeals court ruled that eBay was not liable for trademark infringement by allowing fake Tiffany goods to be sold on the website by individuals.

"It is true that eBay did not

itself sell counterfeit Tiffany goods; only the fraudulent vendors did, and that is in part why we conclude that eBay did not infringe Tiffany's mark," the appeals court said in its ruling in April.

The appeals court said eBay and other companies have "a strong incentive to minimize the counterfeit goods sold on

their websites."

In appealing to the Supreme Court, Tiffany said the appeals court's ruling was the latest in a series of cases around the world that have attempted to define whether Internet-based service providers can be held liable for infringing conduct of their users.

Tiffany said eBay earned \$4.1 million from sales of purported Tiffany jewelry between April 2000 and June 2004.

eBay opposed the appeal and urged the Supreme Court to reject it, saying that if trademark law were to be changed for Internet commerce, then it should be done by lawmakers in Congress, not by the courts.

eBay said it has made substantial investments in anti-fraud measures, spending as much as \$20 million a year. The high court rejected Tiffany's appeal without comment.

Tiffany is based in New York while eBay is in San Jose, California. The Supreme Court case is Tiffany & Co v. eBay Inc, No. 10-300. □

## Hacker claims credit for WikiLeaks takedown

WASHINGTON — A computer hacker known as the "Jester" who calls himself a "hacktivist for good" is taking credit for temporarily taking down the WikiLeaks website.

WikiLeaks.org came under a distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) attack on Sunday shortly before it began releasing the first batch of some 250,000 US diplomatic cables.

The "Jester," a hacker who has targeted extremist websites in the past, claimed responsibility for the cyberattack on WikiLeaks in a message on his Twitter feed, @th3j35t3r.

"www.wikileaks.org - TANGO DOWN - for attempting to endanger the lives of our troops, 'other assets' & foreign relations #wikileaks #fail," the message from "Jester" said.

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at computer security firm F-Secure, told AFP he believed the hacker could carry out the attack on WikiLeaks.

"He's demonstrated previously that he is capable of launching effective denial-of-service attacks, and he's claimed the responsibility for this one as well," Hypponen said by email. "He has the capability and the motive."

Classic DDoS attacks occur when legions of "zombie" computers, normally machines infected with viruses, are commanded to simultaneously visit a website.

Such a massive onslaught of demand can overwhelm servers, slowing service or knocking it offline completely.

WikiLeaks eventually went ahead and began publishing the US diplomatic memos at another address, cablegate.wikileaks.org. □

## Court to review patent judgment against Microsoft

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to referee a \$290 million dispute between Microsoft Corp. and a Canadian technology company over complaints that a tool used in the popular Microsoft Word program violated patent protections.

The high court on Monday agreed to hear an appeal from the Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft, which wants the multimillion dollar judgment against it erased.

Toronto-based i4i sued Microsoft in 2007, saying it owned the technology behind a tool used in Microsoft Word.

The technology in question gave Word 2003 and Word 2007 users an improved way to edit XML, which is computer code that tells the program how to interpret and display a document's contents.

The lower courts say Microsoft willfully infringed on the patent, and ordered the

world's largest software maker to pay i4i \$290 million and stop selling versions of Word containing the infringing technology.

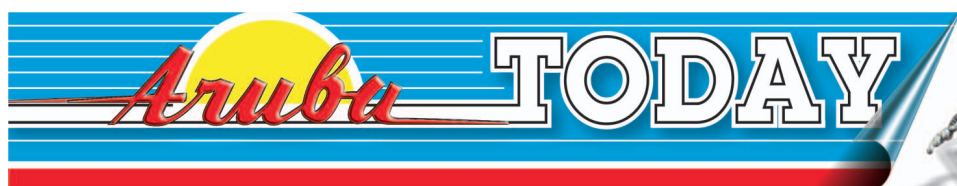
Microsoft now sells versions of Word that do not contain the technology in question.

Microsoft executive David Howard said the company is glad the justices decided to hear their appeal.

"It's a clear affirmation that the issues raised in this case are critical to the integrity of our patent system," Howard said. "We look forward to presenting our case to the Supreme Court."

Chief Justice John Roberts did not take part in the consideration or the decision in this case. He reported owning between \$100,000-\$250,000 worth of Microsoft stock in 2009 on his annual disclosure report.

The court will hear the case sometime next year. □



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# 'Airplane!', 'Forbidden Planet' actor Nielsen dies



**FILE -** In this file photo taken June 1, 2001, actor Leslie Nielsen points to his star as he was inducted into the Walk of Fame along King Street in Toronto. Nielsen, known for his role in the 'Naked Gun' comedies, has died, his agent John S. Kelly said Nielsen died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010, at a hospital near his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he was being treated for pneumonia. He was 84.

(AP Photo)

## 'Empire Strikes Back' director Irvin Kershner dies

By **ROBERT JABLON**,  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Irvin Kershner, who directed the Star Wars sequel "The Empire Strikes Back" and the James Bond film "Never Say Never Again," has died at age 87.

Kershner died Saturday in Los Angeles after a long illness, said Adriana Santini, a France-based actress who is a family friend. He is survived by two sons, she said. His agent, Derek Maki, also confirmed the death Monday in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Kershner already had made a number of well-received movies when he was hired by George Lucas to direct "Empire," which was the second produced but fifth in the "Star Wars" chronology. The 1980 production was a darker story than the original. In it, hero Luke Skywalker loses a hand and learns that villain Darth Vader is his father. The movie initially got mixed reviews but has gone on to become one of the most critically praised.

Kershner told Vanity Fair in October that he tried to give the sequel more depth than the original.

"When I finally accepted the assignment, I knew that it was going to be a dark film, with more depth to the characters than in the first film," he said. "It took a few years for the critics to catch up with the film and to see it as a fairy tale rather than a comic book."

Kershner said he had only one sharp disagreement with Lucas. The script originally called for the heroine, Princess Leia, to tell space pilot Han Solo "I love you" and for him to reply "I love you, too."

"I shot the line and it just didn't seem right for the character of Han Solo," Kershner said. Instead, actor Harrison Ford improvised the reply: "I know."

Lucas wanted the original line but after test previews agreed to leave in Ford's reply, which has gone on to be one of the best-known lines in the series. □

**LOS ANGELES** - Nielsen, the dramatic lead in "Forbidden Planet" and "The Poseidon Adventure" and the bumbling detective Frank Drebin in "The Naked Gun" comedies, died on Sunday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was 84.

The Canada native died from complications from pneumonia at a hospital near his home, surrounded by his wife, Barbaree, and friends, his agent John S. Kelly said in a statement.

Critics argued that when Nielsen went into comedy he was being cast against type, but Nielsen disagreed, saying comedy was what he intended to do all along.

"I've finally found my home — as Lt. Frank Drebin," he told The Associated Press in a 1988 interview.

Comic actor Russell Brand took to Twitter to pay tribute to Nielsen, playing off his famous line: "RIP Leslie Nielsen. Shirley, he will be missed." Nielsen came to Hollywood in the mid-1950s after performing in 150 live television dramas in New York. With a craggily handsome face, blond hair and 6-foot-2 height, he seemed ideal for a movie leading man.

Nielsen first performed as the king of France in the Paramount operetta "The Vagabond King" with Kathryn Grayson.

The film — he called it "The Vagabond Turkey" — flopped, but MGM signed him to a seven-year contract.

His first film for that studio was auspicious — as the space ship commander in the science fiction classic "Forbidden Planet." He found his best dramatic role as the captain of an overturned ocean liner in the 1972 disaster movie, "The Poseidon Adventure."

Behind the camera, the serious actor was a well-known prankster. That was an aspect of his personality never exploited, however, until "Airplane!" was released in 1980 and became a huge hit.

As the doctor aboard a plane in which the pilots, and some of the passengers, become violently ill, Nielsen says they must get to a hospital right away.

"A hospital? What is it?" a flight attendant asks,

inquiring about the illness.

"It's a big building with patients, but that's not important right now," Nielsen deadpans.

It was the beginning of a whole new career in comedy. Nielsen would go on to appear in such comedies as "Repossessed" — a takeoff on "The Exorcist" — and "Mr. Magoo," in which he played the title role of the good-natured bumbler. But it took years before he got there.

He played Debbie Reynolds' sweetheart in 1957's popular "Tammy and the Bachelor," and he became well known to baby boomers for his role as the Revolutionary War fighter Francis Marion in the Disney TV adventure series "The Swamp Fox."

He asked to be released from his contract at MGM, and as a freelancer, he appeared in a series of undistinguished movies.

"I played a lot of leaders, autocratic sorts; perhaps it was my Canadian accent," he said.

Meanwhile, he remained active in television in guest roles. He also starred in his own series, "The New Breed," "The Protectors" and "Bracken's World," but all were short-lived.

Then "Airplane!" captivated audiences and changed everything.

Producers-directors-writers Jim Abrahams, David and Jerry Zucker had hired Robert Stack, Peter Graves, Lloyd Bridges and Nielsen to spoof their heroic TV images in a satire of flight-in-jeopardy movies.

After the movie's success, the filmmaking trio cast their newfound comic star as Detective Drebin in a TV series, "Police Squad," which trashed the cliches of "Dragnet" and other cop shows. Despite good reviews, ABC quickly canceled it. Only six episodes were made.

"It didn't belong on TV," Nielsen later said. "It had the kind of humor you had to pay attention to."

The Zuckers and Abraham converted the series into a feature film, "The Naked Gun," with George Kennedy, O.J. Simpson and Priscilla Presley as Nielsen's co-stars. Its huge success led to sequels "The Naked Gun 2 1/2" and "The Naked Gun 33 1/3." □



**FILE -** In this 1990 file photo released by Orion Pictures Corp., American film director Irvin Kershner is seen during the making of 'Robocop II.' The agent for Kershner says the director of the 'Star Wars' sequel 'The Empire Strikes Back' has died at age 87. Agent Derek Maki says in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, that Kershner died during the weekend, but no further details are available.

(AP Photo)





## FACT CHECK: Small business caught in tax battle

By TOM RAUM,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly empowered Republicans say President Barack Obama would subject as much as half the nation's small business income to job-withering tax increases. Obama and his Democratic allies argue that allowing taxes to rise on the wealthiest Americans would affect only a handful of small business owners.

Both can't be right. And both are playing number games as the lame-duck Congress prepares to take up one of the most contentious issues of the postelection season: what to do about an array of about-to-expire Bush-era tax cuts? If Congress fails to act, taxes will go up for essentially every American taxpayer on Jan. 1. Neither party wants that to happen. Hoping to avoid a December train wreck, Obama has hinted at a possible compromise — perhaps extending the tax cuts for everybody for a year or two. But so far, the president and the Republicans, flush from their big midterm election gains, haven't been able to bridge their differences.

The Obama White House argues that the Bush tax cuts should be extended for everybody earning under \$200,000 and couples earning under \$250,000 a year. Supporters claim the move would protect middle-class taxpayers while helping rein in budget deficits.

Republicans and a growing number of rank-and-file Democrats argue that, despite rising voter angst over deficits, now is no time to raise taxes on anybody — not with unemployment stuck near 10 percent, the housing market still in a shambles and overall economic growth anemic. They insist the move would

mean tax hikes for hundreds of thousands of small- and moderate-sized businesses whose proceeds are taxed at individual rather than corporate rates.

The Bush tax cuts will be a major topic when the president meets at the White House on Tuesday with Republican and Democratic congressional leaders. In remarks Monday at the White House, Obama said the tax cuts were among several "urgent matters" he expected to come up at the meeting.

Here's a closer look at the rival claims:

**THE CLAIM:** Obama and his Democratic allies insist that the vast majority of small businesses — or about 97 percent — would be unaffected under his plan. They note that just 3 percent of those reporting business income on their tax returns earn more than the \$200,000 - \$250,000 thresholds for tax hikes. And they say allowing taxes to rise for the wealthiest Americans would save taxpayers \$700 billion over ten years.

Cutting taxes on wealthier Americans "won't significantly boost the economy, and it's hugely expensive," Obama said. "So we can't afford it."

**THE FACTS:** The 3 percent figure is statistically correct, but misleading. That's because the overwhelming number of small businesses are very small, even tiny. And there are a lot of them — for instance, a house cleaner, a dog walker, an ice cream vendor, somebody who makes money selling things on eBay.

In reporting the raw numbers of tax returns that include business income, the Internal Revenue Service doesn't distinguish between small homegrown businesses and far less common but extremely

profitable ventures such as some hedge funds and doctor and lawyer partnerships.

That distorts the overall percentages to make it appear the impact of the White House plan on small businesses is extremely limited. In fact, it would affect about 750,000 taxpayers who report business profits on individual income returns, according to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

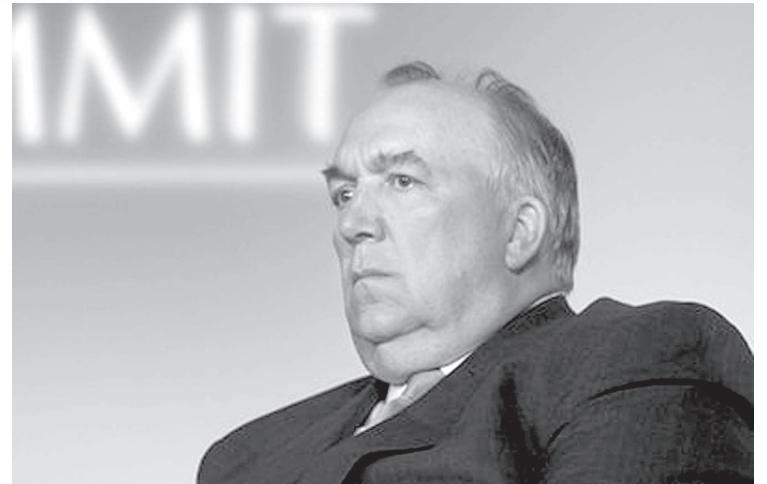
Bill Rys, tax counsel for the National Federation of Independent Business, said roughly 75 percent of small businesses pay their business tax at the individual level.

"For small business owners especially, they're really struggling to get out of this recession," Rys said. "The businesses that are likely to be impacted by tax increases are ones that are employing workers."

As to costs, while extending tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans would cost an additional \$700 billion over ten years, extending them just for lower and middle-class Americans as Obama wants would cost over \$3 trillion over the same period.

**THE CLAIM:** Many Republicans say letting the Bush tax cuts expire for upper-income earners will have a widespread negative impact on small businesses. The increase would affect half of small business income, says Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah calls it "a job-killing tax on small business during tough economic times."

**THE FACTS:** McConnell focuses on affected business income rather than the 3 percent of individual business owners cited by Democrats. The Joint Committee on Taxation agrees, saying that



**FILE -** In this June 15, 2009, file photo, John Engler, president and CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers is seen at the National Summit in Detroit. Newly empowered Republicans suggest the nation's small businesses will be clobbered if tax cuts for those in the highest income brackets are allowed to expire on Dec. 31. President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies argue the impact would be slight. Both can't be right. The truth lies somewhere in between.

(AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

taxpayers who would see a tax increase account for half the business income reported on individual returns. However, two-thirds of these 750,000 households have average net incomes of about \$700,000, the committee says. And some have earnings as high as \$50 million, including some of the nation's largest privately held professional firms — hardly "small" business.

**THE CLAIM:** Republicans and Democrats alike call small business the nation's prime engine of job creation. Politicians, including Obama, like to say that small businesses create two out of every three new jobs.

**THE FACTS:** That may be so, but it depends on how you define "small" business.

The Small Business Administration defines a small business as one with fewer than 500 employees. By that gauge, more than 99 percent of the nation's roughly 6 million businesses with employees qualify.

While smaller businesses do a lot of hiring, they also do a lot of firing. "There's less

turnover at large companies," said Jim Nunns, senior fellow at the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, a joint venture of the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute. At the height of the recession, the largest number of overall job losses occurred in businesses with fewer than 50 workers.

As to tax policy, "the incentive to hire doesn't really turn on the tax rate — because, if you pay an employee, it's tax deductible regardless of your tax rate," Nunns said.

Also, he noted, most small business owners reporting business income have no employees, and little incentive to hire.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said Obama's plan to let taxes increase on top earners "will have an impact on small business, but not nearly to the degree that some fear."

But, he added, "why take a chance when the recovery is so fragile? I think small businesses are very important to the job machine. Without them, the job machine can function, but it can't function well." □

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — An occasional look at the assertions of public officials and how well they adhere to the facts.





# FDA reviews 2 new drugs to reduce prostate cancer

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**,  
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON — Health regulators said Monday that two drugs from GlaxoSmithKline and Merck reduce the risk of prostate cancer in men, though

scientists questioned the drugs' overall benefit, since the tumors they prevent are usually not life-threatening. The reviewers for the Food and Drug Administration also complained that the companies only studied a

small number of African-American men, who are at high risk for prostate cancer. The agency will hold a public meeting on the drugs on Wednesday.

U.K.-based GlaxoSmithKline has asked the FDA to approve its drug Avodart for a new use against prostate cancer, after research showed a 23 percent reduction in low-grade prostate tumors among men taking the drug.

Merck of Whitehouse Station, N.J., achieved similar results with its drug Proscar and is asking the FDA to approve labeling about its drug's benefits in reducing prostate cancer risks. Both drugs are already approved to treat enlarged prostate.

But regulators said in an online review Monday that only a small percentage of patients studied were African-Americans, who are at increased risk of the disease. Only 4 percent of Merck's patients were African-American, while Glaxo's trial enrolled just 2 percent African-American patients.

"The applicability to African-

American men is not known due to marked underrepresentation," states the FDA's review.

FDA's review also raises broader questions about the value of preventing low-grade tumors. According to the FDA, about 80 percent of the tumors the drugs prevent are not aggressive. Because the tumors grow so slowly, they are not considered a threat to senior men with less than 20 years of life expectancy.

While the tumors may not be life threatening, Glaxo has argued that they can lead to unnecessary treatment and biopsies — a procedure where a tiny tissue sample is removed and tested for cancer. About 650,000 men had prostate biopsies last year and 70 percent of the tumors sampled were low-grade, according to Glaxo. Some recent studies have suggested prostate cancer is over-diagnosed and over-treated in men — even in men with low-grade tumors. Treatment for the disease can include surgery to remove the cancer, radiation therapy or chemotherapy.

If approved, Avodart and Proscar would be the first drugs recognized by the FDA to help prevent prostate cancer in men.

On Wednesday, the FDA will ask a panel of outside advisers to vote on the safety and effectiveness of Avodart and Proscar in preventing prostate cancer. The agency is not required to follow the panel's advice, though it often does.

The FDA will also ask its panelists about a slightly higher number of aggressive tumors seen in men taking Avodart and Proscar, compared with those taking dummy pills. The drug companies have argued that their drugs do not cause the more aggressive tumors, but only make them easier detect. Since both drugs shrink the prostate, drug company scientists say doctors are more likely to find large, aggressive tumors than smaller, low-grade tumors.

In midday trading, shares of GlaxoSmithKline PLC fell \$1.09, or 2.8 percent, to \$38.33, while shares of Merck & Co. fell 37 cents to \$34.45. □

## Probiotics may have some benefits for kids

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON**,  
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — A leading medical group says there's some evidence that probiotics, or "good" bacteria, may have limited benefits for certain illnesses in children.

But the group says the science isn't yet strong enough to advocate infant formulas containing probiotics. And probiotics shouldn't be given to children who are seriously ill.

That's according to a new American Academy of Pediatrics report published Monday in the journal, Pediatrics.

About 500 different bacteria live naturally in a healthy human's intestinal tract, and there's a growing understanding of the role they play in health. For years, companies have been making claims that their probiotic pills, yogurts, milks and juices help digestive health and the immune system.

The new report summarizes findings from high-quality scientific studies on some of the active ingredients in the products. The report says probiotics taken early during diarrhea from a viral infection may shorten the illness in otherwise healthy children.

And probiotics also may prevent diarrhea in children who are taking antibiotics, which can sometimes cause the condition.

On the other hand, more evidence is needed before AAP can recommend probiotics for constipation, irritable bowel syndrome or Crohn's disease. And there's not enough evidence for recommending probiotics in pregnant women or infants to prevent eczema or asthma.

Future research may find more benefits, the report says. And "prebiotics," which contain fiber and other nutrients that feed probiotic bacteria, also may someday prove helpful.

One warning: Children with compromised immune systems or who use intravenous catheters should not receive probiotics because serious infections have been reported.

The bacteria in the products are only helpful if they're alive, which isn't always the case.

"Consumers should keep in mind that a large percentage of organisms in a probiotic supplement may die before the product is even purchased and labels can be misleading or incorrect," said Dr. Tod Cooperman, president of ConsumerLab.com, which tests products and reports on their quality.

The company tested probiotic supplements last year. Two children's probiotics contained only 7 percent and 21 percent of the listed amounts. Cooperman suggested that products be stored in sealed containers out of heat, light and humidity. He said it's best to refrigerate them. □

## Rate of Eating Disorders in Kids Keeps Rising

By **n Jenifer Goodwin**

Eating disorders have risen steadily in children and teens over the last few decades, with some of the sharpest increases occurring in boys and minority youths, according to a new report.

In one startling statistic cited in the report, an analysis by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality found that hospitalizations for eating disorders jumped by 119 percent between 1999 and 2006 for kids younger than 12.

At the same time as severe cases of anorexia and bulimia have risen, so too have "partial-syndrome" eating disorders -- young people who have some, but not all, of the symptoms of an eating disorder. Athletes, including gymnasts and wrestlers, and performers, including dancers and models, may be particularly at risk, according to the report.

"We are seeing a lot more eating disorders than we used to and we are seeing it in people we didn't associate with eating disorders in the past

-- a lot of boys, little kids, people of color and those with lower socioeconomic backgrounds," said report author Dr. David Rosen, a professor of pediatrics, internal medicine and psychiatry at University of Michigan. "The stereotype [patient] is of an affluent white girl of a certain age. We wanted people to understand eating disorders are equal-opportunity disorders."

The report is published in the December issue of Pediatrics. While an estimated 0.5 percent of adolescent girls in the United States have anorexia and about 1 to 2 percent have bulimia, experts estimate that between 0.8 to 14 percent of Americans generally have at least some of the physical and psychological symptoms of an eating disorder, according to the report.

Boys now represent about 5 to 10 percent of those with eating disorders, although some research suggests that number may be even higher, said Lisa Lilienfeld, incoming president of the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action in Washington, D.C. □



# Police officers called for selling cupcakes illegally

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, two 13-year old boys had to answer to the police when a local politician said they were selling cupcakes without a permit.

Andrew Demarquis and Kevin Graff were selling baked goods in Chippappau Park in New Castle, N.Y., a New York City suburb. Parents outraged that the young boys had to answer to police for doing something innocent. New Castle Councilman Michael Wolfshn, who called the police on the boys, said a permit must be in hand when selling food items. Parents say the young boys have not put up shop again. □

# Man is compensated for gaining weight at McDonald's job

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, in Brazil, Judge Joao Filho ruled McDonald's must pay \$17,500 to a former franchise owner for gaining 65 pounds. The employee claims he gained the weight from working 12 years at McDonald's. The former employee's name has not been released. He said he was forced to sample food for quality, and his free lunches made his calorie intake rise during his time working for McDonald's. □

# Church offers late night Mass for bar hoppers

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, one church will offer a service at 2:30 a.m. Reverend Carmen D'Amico is hoping to attract people who are out late. This time also has been set due to Pittsburgh's bars closing around this time. This is also way for people who work night shifts to have the opportunity to attend service. The church officials are also targeting the college population a demographic unlikely to attend later in the morning. □



# Foie gras burger blurs fast food and fine dining



A boy poses with a chicken burger at a fast food outlet in Taipei January 29, 2010.

PARIS (Reuters) – A French fast food chain said Monday it intends to offer foie gras “burgers” at bargain prices as a treat for customers ahead of Christmas.

Quick burger said its “Supreme Foie Gras” will consist of the normally expensive duck foie gras, beef, relish and lettuce and go on sale for only 5 euros (\$6.57) at more than 350 outlets across France from December 17th to 19th.

“We want to give our clients great taste at cheap prices and give them the possibility to party a little ahead of time,” Quick’s Marketing Director Laurent Niewolinski, told Reuters.

Foie gras, a luxury dish in French cuisine, is made from the liver of a duck or goose which has been force-fed corn mash, a practice denounced by animal protection groups who say the animals live in constant stress because of it. Niewolinski brushed off potential criticism, saying that foie gras was a traditional part of French celebrations. In a bid to rival U.S. fast food giant McDonald’s, Quick has focused its business strategy on innovations such as unusual burgers offered on a short-term basis and the launch of halal-only restaurants (selling meat and poultry permissible for observant Muslims), a move that sparked a heated debate in the country earlier this year. □

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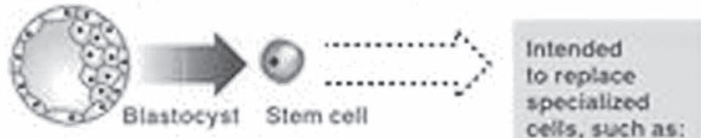
# Scientists trick cells into switching identities

## Skiping past the stem cell

Much research has gone into the use of stem cells for replacing damaged organ tissue. Scientists now report early success at directly converting one kind of specialized cell into another. How cell replacement techniques have developed:

### 1998: Stem cell harvesting

Scientists harvest an embryos, a step toward pro...



### 2007: Induced pluripotent stem cells

Skin cells revert so that they can be made into...



### 2010: Direct conversion

Specialized cells from the body converted directly into early stage blood cells



Graphic explains new method of changing one type of human cell into another

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — Scientists are reporting early success at transforming one kind of specialized cell into another, a feat of biological alchemy that doctors may someday perform inside a patient's body to restore health.

So if a heart attack damages muscle tissue in the heart, for example, doctors may someday be able to get other cells in that organ to become muscle to help the heart pump. That's a futuristic idea, but researchers are enthusiastic

about the potential for the new direct-conversion approach.

"I think everyone believes this is really the future of so-called stem-cell biology," says John Gearhart of the University of Pennsylvania, one of many researchers pursuing this approach.

The concept is two steps beyond the familiar story of embryonic stem cells, versatile entities that can be coaxed to become cells of all types, like brain and blood. Scientists are learning to guide those transformations, which someday may provide

transplant tissue for treating diseases like Parkinson's or diabetes.

It's still experimental. But at its root, it's really just harnessing and speeding up what happens in nature: a versatile but immature cell matures into a more specialized one.

The first step beyond that came in 2007, when researchers reversed the process. They got skin cells to revert to a state resembling embryonic stem cells. That opened the door to a two-part strategy: turn skin cells from a person into stem cells in the lab, and then run the clock forward to get whatever specialized cell you want for transplant.

The new direct-conversion approach avoids embryonic stem cells and the whole notion of returning to an early state. Why not just go directly from one specialized cell to another? It's like flying direct rather than scheduling a stopover.

Even short of researchers' dreams of fixing internal organs from within, Gearhart says direct conversion may offer some other advantages over more established ways of producing specialized cells. Using embryonic stem cells is proving to be inefficient and more difficult than expected, scientists say. For example, the heart muscle cells developed from them aren't fully mature, Gearhart noted.

And there's no satisfactory way yet to make mature

insulin-producing cells of the pancreas, which might be useful for treating diabetes, says George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston and the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

So direct conversion might offer a more efficient and faster way of getting the kinds of cells scientists want.

A glimpse of what might be possible through direct conversion emerged in 2008. Researchers got one kind of pancreatic cell to turn into another kind within living mice.

But far more dramatic changes have been reported in the past year in lab dishes, with scientists converting mouse skin cells into nerve cells and heart muscle cells. And just this month came success with human cells, turning skin cells into early stage blood cells.

The secret to these transformations is the fact that all cells of a person's body carry the same DNA code. But not all the genes are active at any one time. In fact, a cell's identity depends on its lineup of active genes. So, to convert a cell, scientists alter that combination by inserting chemical signals to activate particular genes.

"This is something that's really caught fire because it's an easy strategy to use," Gearhart said. "Everyone's out there trying their different combinations (of chemical signals) to see if they can

succeed."

But success is not so easy. "There's a lot of experiments failing," Daley said. "A lot of people are just taking a trial-and-error approach, and that's fundamentally inefficient. And yet, it may create a breakthrough."

Even when the experiments work, there are plenty of questions to answer. Can this technique reliably produce transformed cells? Are these new cells normal? Or do they retain some hidden vestiges of their original identity that might cause trouble later on?

"When we make a duck look like a cat, it may look like a cat and meow, but whether it still has feathers is an issue," Daley said.

And ultimately: Would it be safe to transplant these cells into patients?

"We're a long way from showing safety and efficacy for any of these things," Gearhart said. "This stuff is all so new that we have a lot of work to do."

In any case, he and Daley said, scientists will still work with embryonic stem cells and the man-made versions first produced in 2007, called iPS cells. Those technologies clearly have places in various kinds of research, and it's not yet clear whether they or direct conversion will eventually prove best for manufacturing replacement cells for people. That question, Daley said, "is way, way open." □

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# Cumbre climática de ONU arranca en Cancún con advertencias serias

CANCUN, México (AP) - La cumbre de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático comenzó el lunes en México en medio de las advertencias de los científicos de que las emisiones causantes del efecto invernadero podrían tener consecuencias irreversibles a menos que se las frene.

El mexicano Mario Molina, Premio Nobel de Química, dijo a los delegados reunidos en Cancún que hay alternativas de bajo costo para limitar el calentamiento global, pero que si no se hace nada, las futuras generaciones pagarán costos “astronómicos”.

Rajendra Pachauri, quien preside el panel de cambio climático de la ONU, afirmó ante los delegados de 193 naciones que asisten a la cumbre que el calentamiento global es “rotundo” y que podría propiciar cambios “abruptos e irreversibles” en



Un globo aerostático del grupo ambientalista Greenpeace se eleva cerca de las ruinas mayas de Chichen Itzá, en México, el domingo 28 de noviembre del 2010. (AP foto/Israel Leal)

los patrones climáticos.

Las delegaciones esperan lograr acuerdos que permitan canalizar miles de millones de dólares y tecnología ecológica

a los países en desarrollo, para que éstos puedan abandonar las fuentes de energía basadas en combustibles fósiles.

Las conversaciones suponen un nuevo intento de los gobiernos por superar la brecha entre países ricos y pobres frente al calentamiento global, cuando hay pruebas cada vez más contundentes de que el clima del planeta está

cambiando de maneras que afectarán a todos.

En su discurso inaugural, el presidente de México, Felipe Calderón, exhortó a los participantes a superar las divisiones profundas entre los países ricos y pobres, las cuales han obstaculizado en los últimos tres años los esfuerzos para negociar un nuevo tratado climático.

“Sería una tragedia que nuestra incapacidad de ver más allá de los intereses personales, de grupo o, incluso, nacionales, nos hiciera fallar a la hora de enfrentar este reto”, dijo el mandatario ante 15.000 delegados, empresarios, activistas y periodistas.

“O cambiamos nuestra forma de vida para detener el cambio climático, o el cambio climático va a alterar, de manera permanente, la forma de vida de esta civilización y no será para bien”, sentenció Calderón.

El final desalentador de la cumbre del 2009 en Copenhague no dejó esperanzas de lograr este año un acuerdo general que establezca límites legales a las emisiones contaminantes de los países más importantes. Se pretendía que un acuerdo de este tipo marcara el camino hacia la meta de lograr una reducción drástica de las emisiones de gases causantes del efecto invernadero para mitad del siglo. Los científicos recomiendan reducirlas para esa fecha a la mitad de los niveles actuales. □

## Acuerdo Perú-Colombia para uso común de sedes diplomáticas

LIMA (AP) - Perú y Colombia suscribieron el lunes un convenio que permitirá a funcionarios comerciales de ambos países usar las sedes diplomáticas del otro país ubicadas en Asia, como una estrategia para la consecución de mercados en esa región.

El convenio fue suscrito con ocasión de la visita oficial que realiza en Perú la canciller de Colombia María Angela Holguín. “La idea es que en la embajada (peruana o colombiana) pudiera haber un funcionario del otro país con funciones comerciales para trabajar; entonces, esa sería la idea para poder ir abriendo mercados. No hay nada consular de por medio”, señaló Holguín en rueda de prensa acompañada de su colega peruano José Antonio García Belaunde.

Se trata de una iniciativa colombiana, restringida al tema comercial, que permitirá a Perú y Colombia hacer uso de las instalaciones diplomáticas del otro país en aquellas naciones asiáticas donde no dispongan de embajadas o consulados.

García Belaunde no descartó una ampliación del acuerdo a nivel consular y político en el futuro. □

## Descartan daño en relaciones EEUU-Colombia por Wikileaks

BOGOTA (AP) - El embajador de Estados Unidos en Colombia, Michael McKinley, descartó que las relaciones de Bogotá con Washington se vean afectadas a raíz de datos presuntamente confidenciales del Departamento de Estado difundidos por WikiLeaks.

“En primer lugar déjeme condenar categóricamente la filtración ilegal de documentos clasificados del gobierno de lo Estados Unidos. Esto afecta no solamente a la diplomacia norteamericana, afecta a la diplomacia de todo el mundo”, dijo McKinley a los reporteros al final de una reunión con representantes sindicales en una sede laboral. “Condenamos categóricamente esta filtración, el daño que se hace con esta filtración es inmenso”, añadió el diplomático. A la vez, McKinley aseguró que “esto (la filtración) no va a afectar las relaciones importantes y

estratégicas y de amistad con los gobiernos donde tenemos representaciones y en el caso de Colombia quiero recalcar que tenemos una relación estrechísima, no solo con el gobierno colombiano sino con el pueblo colombiano y así seguiremos”.

McKinley dijo que entró en contacto con el gobierno del presidente Juan Manuel Santos para tratar el asunto de la filtración, pero declinó dar detalles de cuándo se realizó y sobre qué temas específicos.

“No voy a entrar en detalles sobre mis conversaciones...quiero respetar un poco la confidencialidad, pero sí he tenido conversaciones con el gobierno colombiano a cerca del asunto y se ha asegurado que seguiremos con la relación muy estrecha”, añadió. Aún se desconoce el contenido de al menos 2.000 documentos que tendrían relación con Colombia. □



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